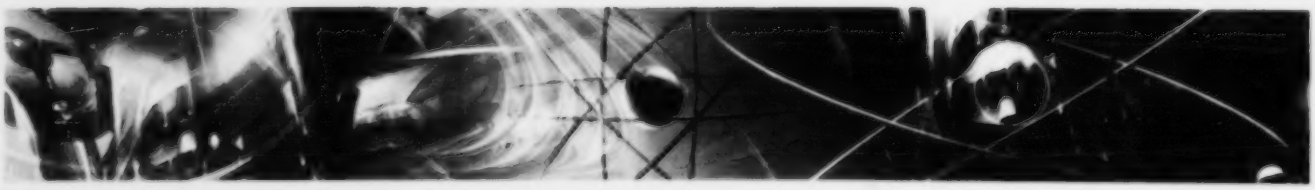
Future of Uranium
Public Consultation Process

Dan Perrins, Chair



Future of Uranium Public Consultation Process

August 31, 2009

Honourable Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for the Uranium Development Partnership
Room 361, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK
S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Boyd:

I am pleased to provide you with my report on the Future of Uranium Public Consultation Process.

Consistent with my mandate, I have documented what I heard throughout the consultation process and have provided recommendations regarding information needs and further public discussion.

I have heard that this is a very important issue for the future of the province and time needs to be taken to ensure quality information is available, people are properly consulted, and informed decisions are made.

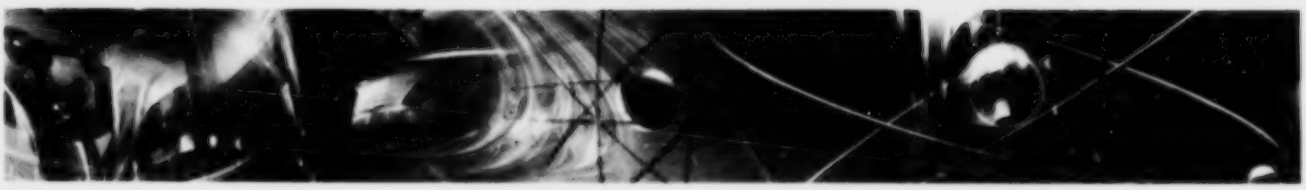
I respectfully suggest a copy of this report be provided to all those who attended the stakeholder conference, participated in hearings, wrote, or e-mailed me. I also ask that it be posted on the www.saskuranium.ca website.

I am very appreciative of those individuals and organizations that took time from their busy schedules to share their views with me. I thank you for providing me with the opportunity to listen and convey their views.

Sincerely,

D. Perrins

Dan Perrins, Chair
Future of Uranium Public Consultation Process



Acknowledgements

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I also wish to thank Andrea Rounce, ADR Consulting, for her assistance, data analysis and support in preparing this report.

Finally, I thank all those individuals and organizations that took time from their busy schedules to share their views with me. Your voices were heard.

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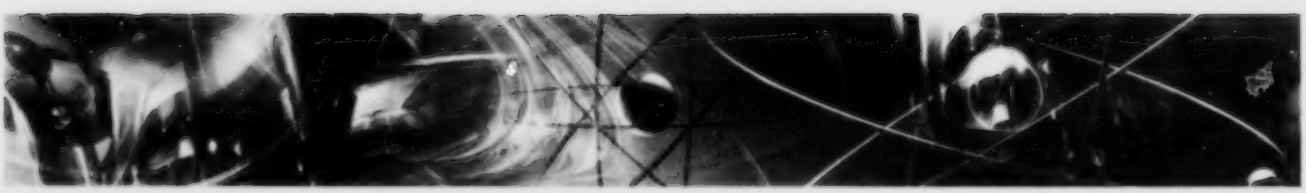

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Executive Summary

Introduction

In October 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan established the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP), chaired by Dr. Richard Florizone, *to identify, evaluate and make recommendations on Saskatchewan-based value added opportunities to further develop our uranium industry.*[1] The report of the UDP, entitled *Capturing the Full Potential of the Uranium Value Chain in Saskatchewan*, was submitted March 31, 2009 and proposed *an integrated strategy to expand Saskatchewan's world-leading position in uranium exploration, mining and milling into thriving broad-based uranium and nuclear power industries.*[2] Twenty specific recommendations were made for the Province to consider.

On April 8, Government announced The Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan Public Consultation Process. I was appointed Chair and was directed to lead an independent process focused on the recommendations made by the Uranium Development Partnership. I was asked to listen to people through an inclusive process, and reflect on what I heard in a report to Government due at the end of August 2009. I was not to be an advocate for the UDP, but was to provide opportunities for Saskatchewan people to respond.

The consultation process was undertaken between April and July 31, 2009 and included:

- A stakeholder conference - 46 organizations attended;
- Four days of hearings – 61 organizations presented;
- Public consultation meetings in Yorkton, Estevan, Swift Current, Regina, Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Saskatoon, La Ronge, Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake - 2,637 people attended;
- Correspondence from the public – 1,275 letters, emails, submissions, workbooks, etc.

In total 2,263 responses were analysed as part of this process. Because some people and organizations may have participated in a number of different ways and at a number of different times, it is not possible to say that 2,263 people participated. Rather, I will talk about 2,263 responses.

Context

The context for the discussion about the future of uranium in Saskatchewan is much different today than it has been historically. There is worldwide concern about climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions. These concerns drive research and innovation into conservation, clean technologies, renewable energy and nuclear power. Moreover, jurisdictions across the world are pursuing expansions in hydro, wind, solar, geo-thermal, bio-mass, clean coal, carbon capture and sequestration, and nuclear generation.

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[1] *Capturing the full potential of the uranium value chain in Saskatchewan*, Uranium Development Partnership, March 31, 2009, p. i

[2] Ibid., p. 2.

In Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan have submitted a joint proposal to the federal government's Expert Review Panel to establish The Canadian Neutron Source to produce medical isotopes, act as a research reactor, and facilitate the establishment of a national academic centre for nuclear research and development.

As of August 2009, SaskPower reports that the demand for power across Saskatchewan has increased by an average of 2.1% each year from 2002 to 2007 and is projected to increase an average of 2.9% per year during the next decade. Looking to 2030, SaskPower indicates that it will have to rebuild, replace, or acquire 3,300 megawatts of power – a total that exceeds the current aggregate generating capacity of 3,172 megawatts.

What I Heard

Very early on in the process, I realized that the content of the consultation process would evolve, and that people would provide the input that they wanted to provide – whether it was focused on the recommendations of the report or more generally on subjects of deep concern or interest to them around uranium development. While people certainly addressed all elements of the Report's recommendations, the themes that emerged from the 2,263 responses were not limited to those recommendations.

Theme 1: Opposition to Nuclear Power Generation
Overall, while there is some support for nuclear power generation, the overwhelming response to this public consultation was that nuclear power generation should not be a choice for Saskatchewan, whether it is intended to serve the needs of Saskatchewan people only, or for a combination of Saskatchewan people and other provinces or states.

Theme 2: Concerns about Health, Safety, and the Environment
The vast majority of responses were concerned about the health and safety impacts of uranium development for the general population, but also for families, children, and future generations of Saskatchewan people. Concerns were also expressed about the safety impacts of uranium development on workers; environmental degradation and the potential impact on agriculture, the watershed, and wildlife; nuclear accidents and nuclear proliferation.

Theme 3: Opposition to Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage
Many people spoke in letters and in the public meetings about their concerns around nuclear waste management. Concerns expressed across the province focused on health and safety, cost, and the distribution of costs and benefits for the province's citizens. They had concerns about the impact of waste storage for future generations. Many stated clearly that they believed it is irresponsible for Saskatchewan people to commit to storing nuclear waste that may have implications for future generations.

Theme 4: Costs of Uranium Development
Clearly, the costs and benefits of uranium development were important to people participating in the public consultation process. While some identified benefits to uranium development, most spoke to concerns about costs – financial, and non-financial – which included financial costs for governments and for individuals including infrastructure costs, costs associated with environmental impacts, health and safety concerns, and training around uranium development. Social costs, like the increased cost of housing associated with the creation of a large-scale project like a nuclear reactor, were also raised. Opportunity costs – or the costs associated with pursuing one course of action, like building a nuclear reactor, at the expense of pursuing another course of action, like developing renewable sources of energy in the province – were often identified as an issue.

Theme 5: Support for Alternative Energy Sources: Renewables
The vast majority of responses dealing with alternative energies – particularly around renewable energy sources – supported Saskatchewan moving towards a greater focus on alternative energy sources, primarily because of environmental benefits associated with these alternatives. They also argued that if Saskatchewan moved toward renewable sources of energy, then economic impacts – including employment – would be spread throughout the province, rather than be focused in one area like with a nuclear power plant.

Future energy sources identified throughout the consultation process tended to be an alternative mix and rarely included nuclear power. Much of the focus was on wind and solar in combination with other renewable sources. A large proportion of people wanted Saskatchewan to go ahead with a study on renewable sources of energy funded to the same level as the UPD Report.

Theme 6: Concerns about the UDP Report
The UDP was mandated to investigate the economic possibilities for uranium development in the province. Many people throughout the consultation process expressed concerns about the UDP Report, including the composition of the partnership that researched and wrote the report. Their concerns around partnership representation included the role of industry and the lack of representation from women and environmental groups, as well as the contents of the report, the mandate of the partnership, and the influence that the report may have on government.

Theme 7: Exploration and Mining
The majority of responses dealing with the exploration and mining of uranium in the province did not support current or future activities in this area. Instead, they expressed concerns about environmental impacts related to mining, and the costs for government associated with subsidizing the industry through the royalty arrangements. Many were concerned about health and safety impacts on workers, communities, and future generations.

Theme 8: Need for Information
It is clear that the need for information is a prominent theme in this public consultation process. Who provides the information, what information is provided, how the information is provided, and whether it can be trusted are all questions that people asked throughout the process.

Many questions surrounded the Saskatchewan situation, and what the government and SaskPower are doing around other alternative sources of power for the province. People want to know if any research has been undertaken around renewables and what that research might be.

In addition, the people of Saskatchewan had a number of questions about training, development, and research – particularly around the production of medical isotopes.

Theme 9: Uranium Upgrading
The majority of participants in the consultation process who spoke to the upgrading of uranium are largely opposed to any upgrading, including enrichment, fuel fabrication, and all other forms of upgrading. Their responses emphasize that their opposition was due to concerns about environmental consequences, the potential for nuclear proliferation, and economic challenges associated with upgrading.

Theme 10: Research, Training, and Development and the Production of Medical Isotopes
Most people were opposed to uranium research, development, and training. They pointed to opportunities in alternative energies, to the desire to avoid non-green technologies including uranium, and to the costs of doing research (including opportunity costs) in this field.

People were interested in the topic of medical isotopes and expressed a need for more information on isotope production and use. Responses were divided on this issue. In fact, many people who expressed support for the production of medical isotopes stipulated it should occur without the use of nuclear fission.

Theme 11: UDP Strategy for Saskatchewan
The majority of responses addressing the UDP's strategy for uranium development in Saskatchewan were opposed to it, speaking to concerns about environmental impacts, the cost of investment, uranium's half-life, and the limitations of uranium-related technology.

Theme 12: Public Consultation Process
While the consultation process was designed to focus on what people had to say about the UDP Report, people participating in the consultation process also expressed their opinions about the process itself.

Most of those commenting felt it was not adequate, was too short, did not provide enough time to prepare; it did not provide government with a strong enough mandate to make a decision about uranium development; it did not have enough people participating in the process; more consultation was needed; and the focus of the consultation – the UDP Report – was not the correct one.

Theme 13: Public Concerns about the Involvement and Public Participation of First Nations and other Aboriginal Peoples, and the Duty to Consult
Throughout the consultation process, First Nations and Métis people participated as members of the public only. This was not a Duty to Consult process and, therefore, there can be no analyses of the sufficiency or results of the duty to consult.

Four main groups of people spoke about the importance of First Nations and Métis involvement, and of the legal Duty to Consult: people in the Athabasca Basin, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and members of the public.

Most argued that, in their capacity as members of the public, First Nations and Métis people must be involved in public consultation processes. Moreover, many argued that current processes around consultation are not sufficient. They indicated more must be done to ensure that the level of engagement, the results of consultation, and the quality of consultation are adequate. They reinforced the Crown's duty to consult and the need for separate First Nations and Métis consultation processes.

Theme 14: Energy Needs and Conservation
Many participants in the consultation process questioned whether power consumption in the province would increase, particularly if Saskatchewan focuses more greatly on energy efficiency and conservation. They advocated an increased focus on household efiiciency and consumption, as well as moving toward greater energy efficiencies in the Crown sector and in the private sector. Energy efficiency was thought to be good economically for the province and for individual households, less expensive for government, and good for the environment.

Theme 15: Moving Forward
Participants in the consultation process addressed three main areas that they wanted taken into consideration when it came to Saskatchewan's energy policy approach. Most of those addressing this question wanted to see Saskatchewan developing policy that reflected the experiences of other jurisdictions, while ensuring that Saskatchewan could remain independent in its energy production and distribution. Others favoured a combination of working together with other jurisdictions either to develop policy or to implement power generation partnerships.

Theme 16: Delivering Energy for the Province
Some people addressed the question of who should provide energy for the province in the future. Many pointed to a continuing role for SaskPower, while others said that there are other options – including co-generation and community-based power generation. A small group emphasized a mix of options, a way of delivering power that would enable people to be self-sufficient and off-grid if they wanted, or the involvement of a private firm.

Recommendations

My mandate does not include making recommendations about further action regarding uranium industry development. However, I am to make recommendations regarding further public consultations and/or the provision of further information to the public. Consistent with what I heard, my recommendations speak to what I see as the primary information needs of the public, and mechanisms for ensuring public access to this information.

Recommendation 1 – Power Generation
I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan develop a consolidated report on all power generation options and make this report available to the public. This report should:

- inform the public about the current and projected power needs of the province;
- outline the power generation options being explored in other jurisdictions including Canada, Europe and the United States;
- outline options for future power generation including:
  - expanded use of renewables, with particular emphasis on wind and solar, but also hydro, geo-thermal, bio-mass and any other options;
  - expansion of natural gas and polygeneration, clean coal and carbon capture, as well as sequestration;
  - nuclear power generation;
  - increased energy conservation efforts, and
  - continued use of coal.
- document the health, safety, environmental and economic considerations for each of the above options;
- outline the costs associated with each of the options, including initial capital investment, transmission costs, operating costs, the cost of storage for renewable sources such as solar or wind; costs associated with nuclear waste; and decommissioning costs;
- provide a comparable projection of the estimated costs to the consumer for each of the options;
- include a potential delivery discussion for each of the options including an expanded role for SaskPower and/or public-private partnerships; and
- explain the current global discussion regarding carbon taxation, cap and trade, and the implications of both.

Recommendation 2 – Power Generation
I recommend SaskPower publicly release any existing analyses it has already undertaken regarding provincial power needs, the current state of its infrastructure and future options for response. Recognizing that there are limitations to what can be released publicly because of confidentiality and contractual obligations, and knowing that much technical information around power is difficult for non-experts to understand, this information should be presented in a format accessible to the public.

Recommendation 3 - Health
I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan commission a study to review the current research on the health impacts of nuclear power and that this study, and a publicly consumable summary version, be publicly released.

Recommendation 4 – Medical Isotopes
I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan initiate a public information campaign regarding the production and use of medical isotopes. Information should include, but not be limited to, answering the following questions:

- What are medical isotopes and what are they used for?
- How are they made?
- Who produces isotopes, what is their production status, what technology are they using and how much do they cost?
- What type of imaging technology is required in medical facilities, what is the availability of such technology and what are the costs?
- What is proven technology and what is emerging?
- What is the proposed Canadian Neutron Source, what will it produce, what technology will it use, what will it cost, and how is it similar or different from proposals submitted by other jurisdictions?

Recommendation 5 – First Nations
I recommend that a separate First Nations consultation process be established for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report, in accordance with the unified First Nations Strategy on Consultation, Accommodation and Resource Revenue Sharing.

Recommendation 6 – Athabasca Basin
I recommend a First Nations consultation process be established in the Athabasca Basin for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report, in accordance with the Athabasca Regional Government's An Agreement Respecting: a Protocol Establishing the Framework for the Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodate and A Resource Development Project Review and Approval Process.

Recommendation 7 – Métis Nation-Saskatchewan
I recommend that a separate Métis consultation process be established for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report.

Recommendation 8 - Need for More, Better Information
I recommend forums be organized on an ongoing basis to facilitate dialogue, debate, publication and information dissemination through the media. This should include, but not be limited to, the hosting of conferences by the Government of Saskatchewan and the two universities to:

- discuss nuclear generation, environmental health and community health; and
- explore other options for future power generation including:
  - expanded use of renewables, with particular emphasis on wind and solar, but also hydro, geo-thermal, bio-mass and any other options;
  - expansion of natural gas and polygeneration, clean coal and carbon capture and sequestration;
  - increased energy conservation efforts; and
  - continued use of coal.

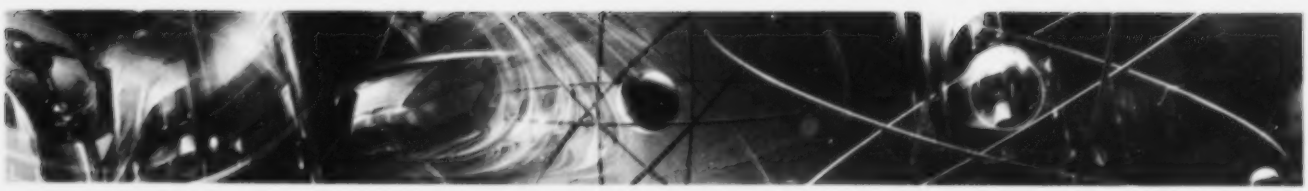
Recommendation 9 - Need for More, Better Information
In order to make the best information available, I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan use mechanisms such as surveys, focus groups and polling on an ongoing basis to assess the knowledge, understanding, information needs and views of the public.

Conclusion

Throughout the consultation process, I was impressed with the commitment of people to the future of the province. I am very appreciative of those individuals and organizations that took time from their busy schedules to share their views with me.

People told me this is a very important issue for the future of the province and time needs to be taken to ensure quality information is available, people are properly consulted, and informed decisions are made.

I look forward to future opportunities for public discussion, debate and information exchange on the future of power in Saskatchewan.



Introduction

In October 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan established the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP), chaired by Dr. Richard Florizone, with the following mandate: *to identify, evaluate and make recommendations on Saskatchewan-based value added opportunities to further develop our uranium industry.*[3] The report of the UDP, entitled *Capturing the Full Potential of the Uranium Value Chain in Saskatchewan*, was submitted March 31, 2009 and analysed the areas of: exploration and mining; upgrading; power generation; used fuel management; research, development and training. It proposed *an integrated strategy to expand Saskatchewan's world-leading position in uranium exploration, mining and milling into thriving broad-based uranium and nuclear power industries.*[4] Twenty specific recommendations were made for the Province to consider.

On April 8, Government announced The Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan Public Consultation Process. I was appointed Chair and directed to lead an independent process, focused on the recommendations made by the Uranium Development Partnership. I was asked to listen to people through an inclusive process, and reflect on what I heard in a report to Government due at the end of August 2009. I was not to be an advocate for the UDP, but to provide opportunities for Saskatchewan people to respond.

The consultation process was undertaken between April 8 and July 31, 2009. This report documents what I heard and makes a number of recommendations pertaining to further consultation and the information needs of the public.

More than 2,600 people took time out of their busy schedules to attend public meetings and almost 1,300 people expressed their views to me by letter or email. I am heartened by their passion and their commitment to the future of Saskatchewan.

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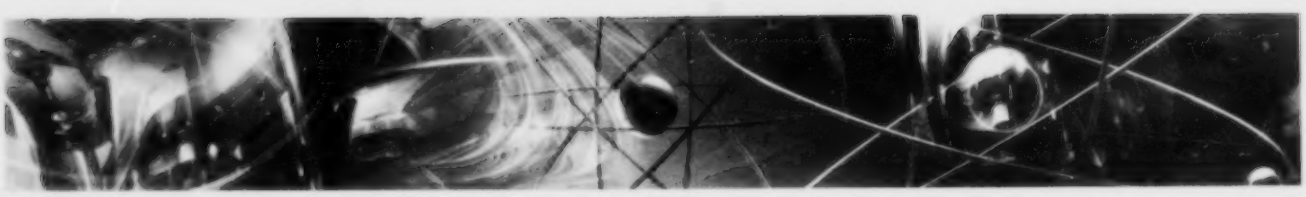
[3] *Capturing the full potential of the uranium value chain in Saskatchewan*. Uranium Development Partnership. March 31, 2009. p. i

[4] Ibid., p. 2.



Mandate

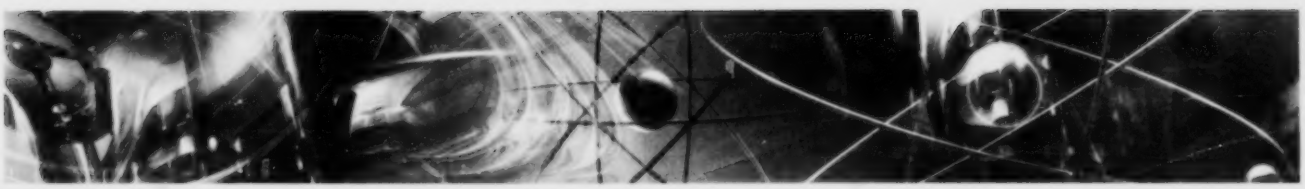
My mandate from Government included, but was not limited to:

- Chairing a half-day stakeholder consultation meeting;
- Chairing community consultation meetings across the province;
- Chairing a minimum of two full-day meetings at which individual stakeholder organizations were to have an opportunity to present submissions;
- Chairing a minimum of one full-day meeting at which First Nations and Métis representatives were to have an opportunity to present submissions;
- Receiving and reviewing all written submissions;
- Acting as a spokesperson for the public consultation process; and
- Writing and submitting to the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation a report no later than August 31, 2009, summarizing public input and feedback from stakeholders and citizens.

My role as Chair was not to include:

- Acting as a spokesperson for the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) or the Government of Saskatchewan;
- Acting as an advocate for or against the key findings or recommendations contained in the UDP Report; or
- Making recommendations for further action with regard to uranium industry development except to recommend further public consultations and/or the provision of further information to the public.

Please see Appendix A for a copy of my full mandate as outlined by the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation in correspondence dated April 8, 2009.



The Consultation Process

The consultation process included:

- A stakeholder conference held in Saskatoon on May 26;
- Four days of hearings in which interested organizations made presentations directly to me. Two were held in Saskatoon on May 27 and May 28 and two occurred in Regina on June 22 and June 23;
- Public consultations in Yorkton, Estevan, Swift Current, Regina, Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows, Lloydminster, North Battleford,Saskatoon, La Ronge, Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake.

With the exception of Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake, all sessions were audio recorded and posted on my website www.saskuranium.ca. Flipchart notes from the stakeholder conference, the public consultations and notes taken at the Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake meetings were also posted, as were submissions from organizations that presented to me in the hearings and others I received by mail or via the web. A workbook was also made available for people to fill out and provide their comments.

Stakeholder Conference

Organizations representing various sectors in the province with an interest in the UDP report were invited to attend the stakeholder conference. Forty-six of the sixty organizations invited attended (please see Appendix B for a list of the invited organizations). The session began with a video developed by SaskPower providing an overview of the province's power system needs, options, and challenges and a presentation by Dr. Richard Florizone on the findings and recommendations of the UDP report. Feedback was provided through three breakout groups who discussed the report. Professional facilitators[5] encouraged participants to express their views and, as noted above, comments were captured on flipcharts and were audio recorded. My concluding remarks closed the conference.

Hearings

Sixty-one organizations made presentations to me: thirty-one in Saskatoon and thirty in Regina (see Appendix C for a list of these organizations). These sessions were open to the public and many people attended them to hear directly from the presenters. Again, hearings were audio-recorded and all submissions were posted on my website.

Public Consultations

Initially, the government planned nine public consultations. This was subsequently expanded to include La Ronge and communities in the Athabasca Basin – specifically, Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake. Thus, thirteen communities participated in the public meetings.

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[5] All facilitators are experienced professionals provided by the Dispute Resolution Office, Ministry of Justice.

In total, 2,637 people attended the public consultation meetings. All began with introductory comments from me, followed by video or verbal presentations from SaskPower and Dr. Florizone.[6] At the initial meeting, a request came from the floor to allow a presentation of alternate perspectives. This request was accommodated and subsequently built into the process. All sessions were professionally facilitated and, in most communities, breakout groups were used to maximize input.

Table 1 summarizes the approach taken in each community and the number of participants:

Table 1: Format of Public Meetings

Community	Participants	Format
Yorkton	106	Main session and three breakout groups
Estevan	48	Main session
Swift Current	122	Main session and three breakout groups
Regina	413	Main session and two breakout groups
Prince Albert	435	Main session and three breakout groups
Buffalo Narrows	38	Main session
Lloydminster	258	Main session and three breakout groups
North Battleford	192	Main session and two breakout groups
Saskatoon	805	Main session and three breakout groups
LaRonge	101	Main session and one breakout group
Stony Rapids	23	Main session
Fond du Lac	40	Main session
Wollaston Lake	56	Main session

[6] A verbal presentation of the UDP report was made in Wollaston Lake in lieu of Dr. Florizone's video.

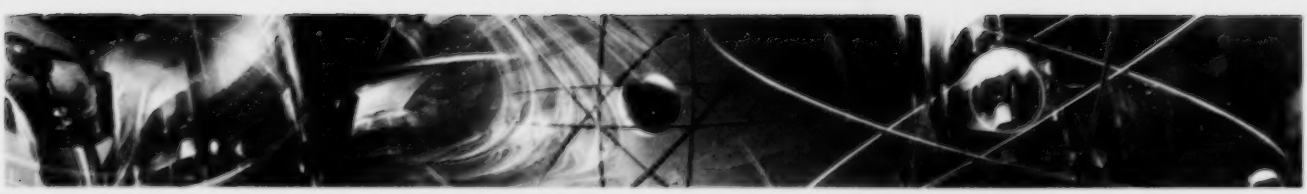
The Context

The context for the discussion about the future of uranium in Saskatchewan is much different today than it has been historically.

Today, there is worldwide concern about climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions. These concerns drive research and innovation into conservation, clean technologies, renewable energy and nuclear power. Jurisdictions across the world are pursuing expansions in hydro, wind, solar, geo-thermal, bio-mass, clean coal, carbon capture and sequestration, and nuclear generation:

- Russia, China, India, Finland, Japan and South Korea are expanding nuclear power generation;
- Sweden, Germany and Belgium have announced their intention to phase out nuclear power generation in pursuit of renewable options, particularly wind;
- In July of this year, the leaders of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States met at the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. They agreed to reduce carbon emissions; drive transformational low-carbon, climate-friendly technologies through increased investments in research and development (doubling by 2015); recognized that global average temperature above pre-industrial levels ought not to exceed 2 degrees C; and agreed to work together to identify a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050.
- The United States has announced plans to implement a "carbon tariff" on all imports into the US that do not meet or exceed US targets/regulations, and the Obama Administration has announced $120M over four years for the production of medical isotopes;
- In Canada, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), has identified NB, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan as potential sites for a nuclear waste storage facility and will soon be conducting consultations in these jurisdictions;
  - the Chalk River reactor in Ontario has been temporarily shut down leading to a worldwide shortage in medical isotopes;
  - Prime Minister Harper has announced the Government of Canada no longer sees an ongoing role for itself in the production of medical isotopes and has established an Expert Review Panel to report on new options for secure medium to long-term supply of medical isotopes for the Canadian health care system;
  - Ontario has postponed the replacement of its nuclear power plants due to cost overruns; and
  - a new Offset System for Greenhouse Gases has been announced by the federal government that will place a domestic price on carbon emissions;
- In Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan have submitted a joint proposal to the federal government's Expert Review Panel to establish The Canadian Neutron Source to produce medical isotopes, act as a research reactor, and facilitate establishment of a national academic centre for nuclear research and development.

As of August 2009, SaskPower reports that the demand for power across Saskatchewan has increased by an average of 2.1% each year from 2002 to 2007 and is projected to increase an average of 2.9% per year during the next decade. Looking to 2030, SaskPower states it will have to rebuild, replace, or acquire 3,300 megawatts of power – a total that exceeds the current aggregate generating capacity of 3,172 megawatts.



What I Heard

Introduction

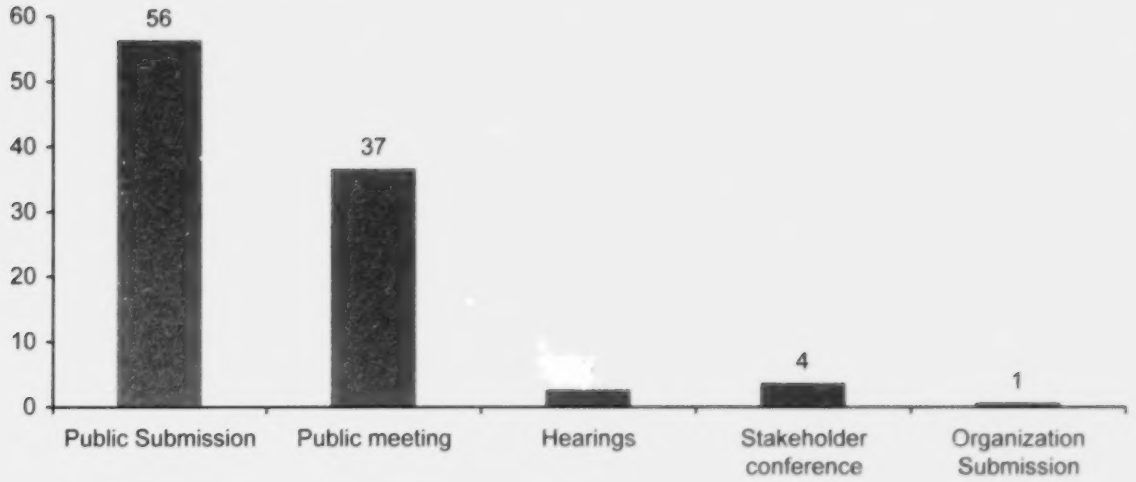
One of the most common comments heard throughout the province was about how much information there would be to read throughout this process and bring together for this report. In a process like this, it is so important to make sure that people's voices are heard, and that all of the different perspectives offered in the discussion are brought together. My report attempts to do just that.

Who Participated

Overall, 2,263 responses were analysed as part of this process. Because some people and organizations may have participated in a number of different ways and at a number of different times, it is not possible to say that 2,263 people participated. Rather, I will talk about 2,263 responses – including the voices of those who participated in public meetings; who mailed, emailed, handed in, or submitted online their thoughts about the UDP Report and the future of uranium in Saskatchewan in word format or in the form of text, film, photography, or paintings, who participated in the stakeholder conference; in the hearings; or who made a submission on behalf of an organization. In many cases, people brought or sent information that they felt was relevant to the uranium consultation process – everything from news reports, to information from blogs, to published medical research. These responses – or content – were from active, vocal citizens and organizations who felt strongly enough about the nuclear question to participate in the process.

In total, over half (56%, n=1,276) of the participation took the form of submissions from the public, through letters, emails, and workbooks (Figure 1). Another 37% (n=828) of the responses came from the public meetings held in thirteen locations across the province. Stakeholders or organizations accounted for just under 10% of the participation in total: 3% (n=61) through the hearings, 4% (n=84) through the stakeholder conference, and 1% (n=15) through organizational submissions.

Figure 1: Participation in Public Consultation (% of responses)



The public submissions – through letters, emails, and workbooks – and through participation in public meetings came from people throughout the province (Table 2). Overall, 1, 276 submissions were received with the largest representation from people in the Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina areas, as shown in Figure 2. In terms of public meetings, approximately 2,637 people attended the thirteen meetings held during the month of June. Responses at the public meetings account for about one-third (31%) of the people attending those meetings.

Table 2: Public Participation in the Consultation Process

Location (Region)	Public Submissions	Attendance at Public Meetings
Buffalo Narrows	1	38
La Ronge	9	101
Lloydminster	239	258
Prince Albert	318	435
North Battleford	40	192
Saskatoon	222	805
Yorkton	33	106
Regina	211	413
Swift Current	27	122
Estevan	14	48
Stony Rapids		23
Fond du Lac	1	40
Wollaston Lake		56
Outside of Saskatchewan	3	
Not stated	158	
Total	1,276	2,637

Note: one submission was presented on behalf of the three communities: Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac, and Wollaston Lake

Figure 2: Submissions by Public Meeting Region

First Nations

I contacted the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) for guidance and learned they are currently developing a unified *First Nations Strategy on Consultation, Accommodation and Resource Revenue Sharing*, which will provide the foundation for developing any and all Consultation Protocols, including any protocols on uranium development and nuclear waste.

The FSIN requested that any involvement of First Nations in the Public Consultation process be considered to be involvement of First Nations people as members of the public only. Further, the FSIN indicated that while a duty to consult and accommodate First Nations exists, the Public Consultation process must be kept separate and distinct from all First Nations consultation and may in no way be considered a part of implementing the legal duty to consult and accommodate.

My commitment to the FSIN was that any participation of First Nations in the Public Consultation process would be considered involvement of First Nations as members of the public only, and not in their capacity as First Nations who are owed consultation obligations. Therefore, there can be no analyses of the sufficiency of the level or results of the duty to consult, as this was not a duty to consult process.

In addition, my commitment to the FSIN included recommending that a separate First Nations consultation process be established with regard to the Uranium Development Partnership Report, in accordance with the unified strategy being developed by First Nations on consultation, accommodation, and resource revenue sharing. Any comments in this Report relating to the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations are to be considered solely public comments.

See Appendix D for correspondence received from the FSIN dated June 29, 2009 and from August 24, 2009.

The Athabasca Denesuline First Nations indicated, in the Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake meetings, their opposition to any further uranium industrial development until the provincial government reaches accommodation and reconciliation with the Athabasca Region respecting treaty and Aboriginal rights and land, water and resource management issues. The Chiefs of the Athabasca Denesuline First Nations provided a protocol, *An Agreement Respecting: A Protocol Establishing the Framework for the Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodate and A Resource Development Project Review and Approval Process*, signed by Athabasca Regional Government including the Fond du Lac, Black Lake, and Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nations; the northern settlements of Camsell Portage, Uranium City and Wollaston Lake; and the northern hamlet of Stony Rapids.

Métis

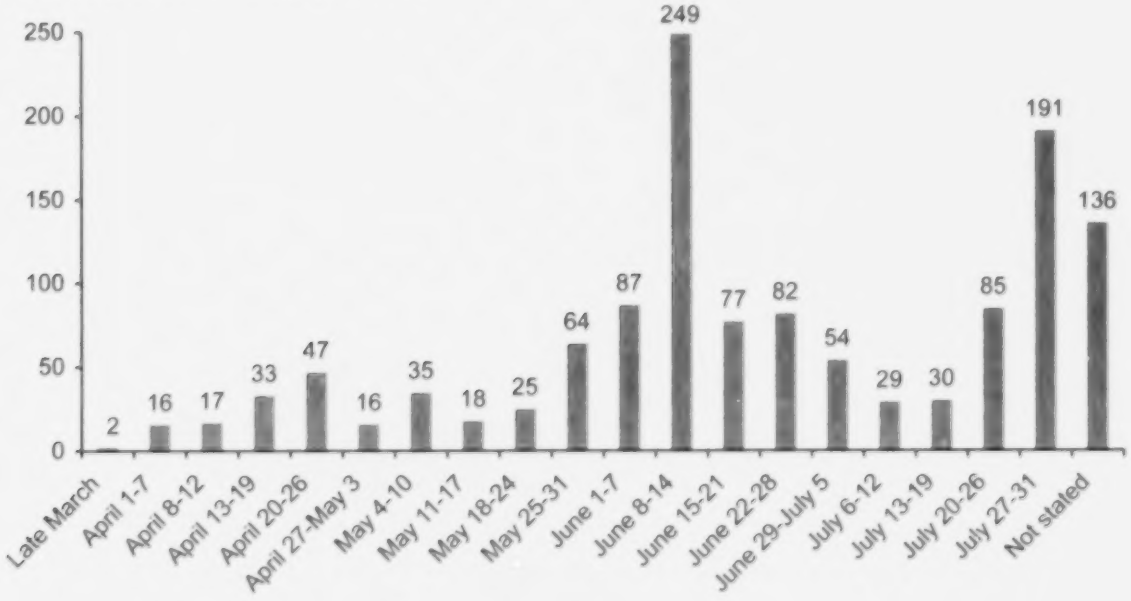
Métis people participated in the public consultations as members of the public. To ensure Métis representatives also had the opportunity to present submissions, I contacted the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), requesting their advice regarding an appropriate engagement process.

On July 3, 2009, MN-S wrote to me and indicated that any contemplation of a project of this scale triggers the Crown's legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate between the Crown and the MN-S (see Appendix E for a copy of the letter). They requested a meeting of the MN-S and the Uranium Development Partnership. They also indicated they require financial assistance for capacity building.

When Submissions Were Received

The public and organizations participated in various ways throughout the consultation part of the process. While most submissions from the public and from organizations or stakeholders were received between early April and July 31, 2009, some were received through the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation's Office and Premier's Office and were dated from late March. Figure 3 shows when the submissions were dated, rather than when they were received.

Figure 3: Submissions (Public and Organizational) to the Consultation Process, late March to July 31, 2009 (# of submissions per week)



What I Heard

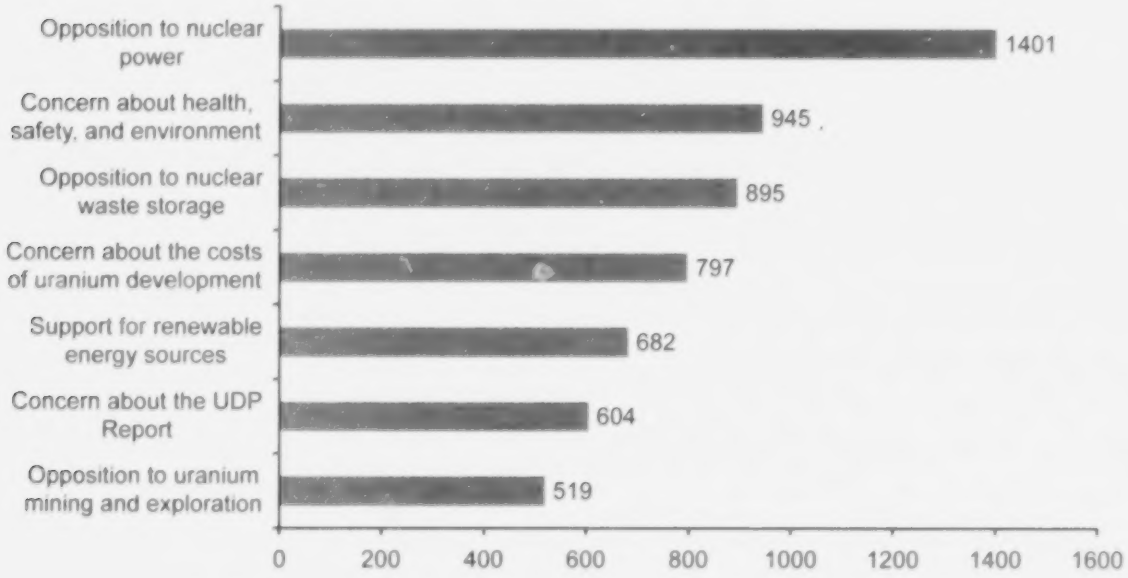
Overall, those participating in this consultation process, whether as members of the public or as representatives of organizations, provided thought-provoking information. The future of uranium development in Saskatchewan is a highly controversial topic. People feel strongly—positively or negatively—about this topic, and about the long-term implications of a potential expansion of the role of uranium in the province. They care about their home communities, communities in the North, the province as a whole, and about Saskatchewan's role in the world regarding uranium development.

My original mandate was to listen to Saskatchewan people responding to the recommendations of the UDP Report. Very early on in the process, I realized that the content of the consultation process would evolve and that people would provide the input that they wanted to provide – whether it was focused on the recommendations of the report or more generally on subjects of deep concern or interest around uranium development. While people certainly addressed all elements of the Report's recommendations, the themes that emerged from the 2,263 responses were not limited to those recommendations.

There are some differences and some clear commonalities that resulted from my interactions with people and organizations across the province. I have identified eight main themes addressed in at least 500 responses, as well as an additional eight issues or concerns raised in smaller percentages of responses. It is important to note that these participants are not necessarily representative of the population of Saskatchewan as a whole, as people who participated in the consultation process are active, vocal citizens who have been motivated to speak out about a topic they find significant.

The first seven themes identified below are presented in order based on how many responses addressed each theme, as shown in Figure 4. However, the eighth, on information needs, is not included in the figure because the need for information was integrated throughout many comments made in the consultation process.

Figure 4: Main Themes of Consultation Process (number of responses)



Theme #1 - Opposition to Nuclear Power Generation
The majority of people participating in the public consultation process oppose the province moving towards nuclear power generation because of health and safety concerns, concerns about environmental impacts, and the costs associated with nuclear power. Many specify that they would not want a nuclear power plant in their area of the province.

Theme #2 - Concerns about Health, Safety, and the Environment
A large proportion of people in the public consultation process are concerned about the threats posed by nuclear power to health and safety and the environment. They identify many potential health and safety consequences associated with all stages of the uranium life cycle, from exploration and mining to the storage and management of waste.

Theme #3 - Opposition to Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage
People oppose nuclear waste storage and management in the province.

Theme #4 - Costs of Uranium Development
Many concerns about the costs of uranium development – nuclear power and waste management in particular – were identified throughout the public consultation process. Costs include both the financial costs and risks to government and to the consumer, but also those associated with environmental, social, and health impacts in the short term and in the long term.

Theme #5 - Support for Alternative Energy Sources: Renewables
Participants in the public consultation process strongly support alternative, renewable, energy sources. They want the province to research and move toward renewable sources, like wind, solar, and others.

Theme #6 - Concerns about the UDP Report
Many people expressed concerns about the UDP Report itself, including the panel membership, mandate, and the kind of information contained in the UDP Report. They were concerned that the UDP Report formed the basis for the public consultation process, which they believe was limited in scope.

Theme #7 - Opposition to Exploration and Mining
The majority of people and organizations participating in the consultation process were opposed to uranium mining and exploration, generally, currently, and for the future. However, many responses– nearly one-quarter – were in favour of mining and exploration as well.

Theme #8 - Need for Information
People want to be informed. They want more information and they want better information about power in the province.

Additional Themes Uranium-Related

Theme 9 - Opposition to Upgrading
Participants in the consultation process were largely opposed to any upgrading of uranium in the province.

Theme 10 - Research, Training, and Development and the Production of Medical Isotopes
People were more divided about the province's participation in uranium research, development, and training. While nearly half of those participating in the consultation process were opposed, one-third supported these activities. Some spoke specifically to the role of medical isotopes, with the majority of those being supportive of producing medical isotopes without nuclear fission.

Theme 11 - Opposition to UDP Strategy for Saskatchewan
The majority of people commenting on the strategy did not accept the UDP's proposed strategy for the future of uranium development in the province. These people do not want to see it move forward.

Public Consultation

Theme 12 - Public Consultation Process
People expressed a great deal of feedback on the consultation process overall, including the way that the public meetings worked. They wanted to see different kinds of information provided, different structures for participation, different kinds of participation – including a referendum – and they expressed concerns about whether or not government would listen to what they had to say.

Other factors to consider when moving forward on energy policy

Theme 13 - Public Concerns about the Involvement and Public Participation of First Nations and Metis Peoples, and the Duty to Consult
The Government of Saskatchewan has a legal duty to consult with First Nations and Métis people about the future of uranium in Saskatchewan, as it affects their traditional lands, way of life, and treaty rights.

Theme 14 - Energy Needs and Conservation
People are interested in energy conservation. They wanted to know how conservation fit into plans for Saskatchewan's energy future. They also felt strongly about incorporating conservation into any future plans.

Theme 15 - Saskatchewan Policy Approach
Many consultation participants said that it is vital to observe what other jurisdictions are doing when designing energy policy for the future. Saskatchewan's place in the country is an important element of this, and many have concerns about interdependence in energy.

Theme 16 - Delivering Energy for the Province
Participants in the consultation process believed that there is an important role for SaskPower in Saskatchewan's future energy system. Furthermore, they see developing roles for others, including individuals.

Methodology

It was challenging to bring together the thoughts of the people and organizations involved in the consultation process. It was vital to ensure that everything that was submitted – whether through the mail, email, in person, at a meeting, or at a hearing – was reflected in this report.

In order to do this, a research team of five people worked together to ensure that all of the information submitted during the consultation process received numerical codes corresponding to their content. This data was then entered into a database and served as the basis for my findings.

a. Data
It was important to make sure that everyone who participated in the consultation process in some way had their contributions counted. To reflect the voices of the people who participated in the public meetings, the research team listened to the audio recordings of ten of the meetings (both break-outs and plenaries) and took detailed notes on what was said throughout in order to supplement the flipchart notes taken by the facilitators during the meetings. The research team worked with detailed notes for the three meetings in the Athabasca Basin.

Many submissions from the public and from organizations were received through the mail and through email, in letter, workbook, and petition format. Some took the form of artistic endeavours, whether through painting or film. All of these were included in the analysis.

For the stakeholder conference, the research team listened to the audio recording of the meeting and took detailed notes on what was said throughout in order to supplement the flipchart notes taken by the facilitators during the session. Organizations that presented at the hearings had their written presentations included. If they did not submit a written presentation, detailed notes were taken from the audio of that presentation.

b. Coding and Data Entry

Peoples' opinions during the consultation process were assigned a series of codes. First, material was labeled by date, method of submission (email, mail), and location. Second, the research team worked to develop a list of numerical codes that were used to summarize the material, as you will see in this section. The researchers read everything and applied the relevant numerical codes to the content in each submission. For quality control purposes, the research team double-checked part of their work.

The resulting numerical codes were entered into spreadsheets and a database for analysis. As with the coding, the research team double-checked a portion of their work in order to ensure the highest quality work.

c. Bringing Together the Results

In order to draw out the themes of the consultation process, statistical analysis was used to aggregate individual comments. While there are some limitations to this approach, it was one way to ensure that everyone's voice became part of the findings for this report.

The approach also ensured that we would be able to see some of the similarities in peoples' comments while also allowing for differences. We would be able to see trends or themes in the data, but also have an understanding of some of the depth of what people had to say. This approach was not designed to capture the emotion of peoples' submissions – rather, it was focused on the content of what people had to say.

It is significant to note that not everyone who made a submission addressed every issue that I heard during the consultation process. In addition, many people made more than one submission, whether through speaking a number of times at a public meeting, submitting a series of written pieces, or through a combination of those scenarios. It was not possible to identify how many people made multiple submissions, or participated in the process in multiple ways, since we did not track names at the public meetings and people were not required to provide their contact information on written submissions. Additionally, if people expressed their opinion about one element or idea multiple times, it was included once in the database in order to ensure that their main points were captured.

d. Presenting the Findings

In the sections to follow, you will see a detailed summary of what I heard, read, and observed during the consultation process. Both percentages and numbers are presented in the format (x%, n=1) because, in many cases, there are small numbers of submissions speaking to various themes. This is important to remember, using percentages when there are small numbers involved can be misleading. Using percentages allows us to compare how many people said different ideas or how responses from various regions might differ; however, it is essential to be aware of the numbers involved. Results are generally presented from most to least, so the most common response will be presented first, followed by the next most common response, and so on. Throughout this report, the presented percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

How responses varied by region of the province, based on the public meeting regions, is included throughout this section when possible. For presentation purposes, Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac, and Wollaston Lake are grouped into a region called the Athabasca Basin throughout the report. As with the responses overall, not all regions are represented in each theme. Again, many of these regional breakdowns involve quite small numbers of actual responses, so it is vital to always use them with a reference to the numbers involved. When submissions did not include an address, they were coded as "region not stated," and are not discussed in the regional analysis.

The responses summarized here are not necessarily representative of the Saskatchewan population and cannot be linked back to the population with any statistical reliability. They include responses from both members of the public and of organizations or stakeholders in the province who feel strongly about uranium development and related issues. People who attended the public meetings may see some differences here, compared with what they observed at the meetings, but must remember that over 1,000 written submissions were also received.

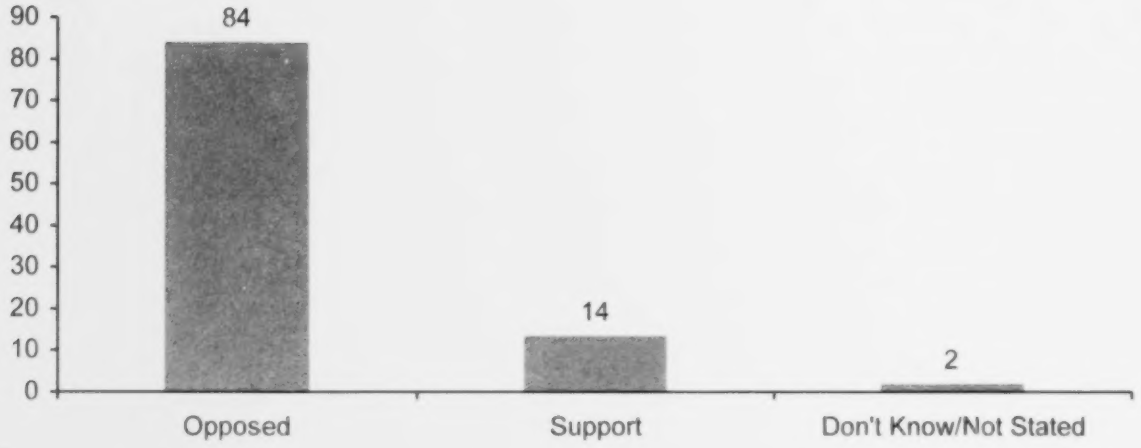
Overall, this summarizes what I heard during the consultation process on the future of uranium in Saskatchewan.

Theme 1: Opposition to Nuclear Power Generation

During the consultation process, when people talked or wrote about nuclear power generation, they addressed Saskatchewan's energy needs, energy conservation, the costs and benefits of nuclear power generation, and what nuclear power generation might mean for Saskatchewan's relationship with other provinces and states. Just over 1,400 responses dealt specifically with nuclear power generation in the province. Most petitions and form letters received centred on this area.

Of these 1,401 responses, 84% (n=1,183) were generally against nuclear power generation for the province, whether that included power generation for export or not (as seen in Figure 5). Many indicated that they did not want a nuclear power plant in their area of the province. Over one in ten (14%, n=190) were in favour of nuclear power, and 2% (n=28) of responses were either not given or expressed indecision.

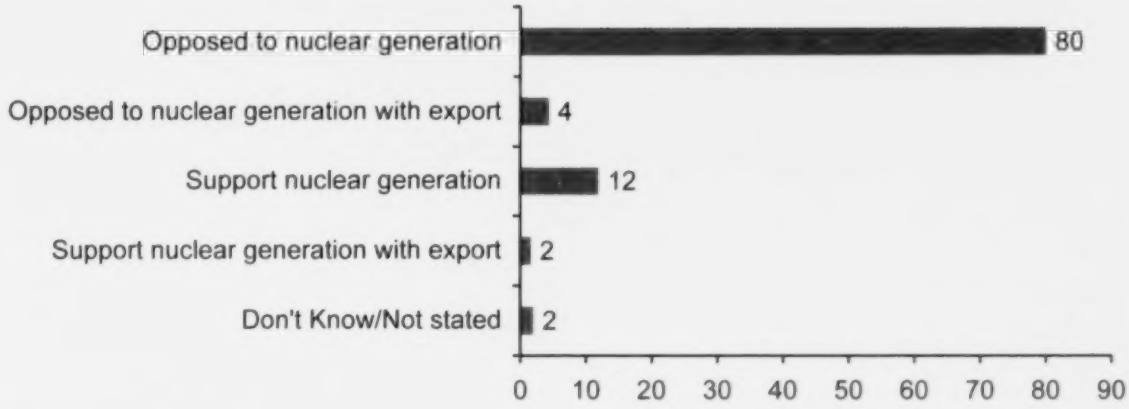
Figure 5: Nuclear Power Generation in Saskatchewan: Support and Opposition for Generation (% of responses)



More specifically, of the total responses indicating that they were opposed to nuclear power (84%), 80% (n=1,121) were against nuclear power generation for Saskatchewan generally (see Figure 6). An additional 4% (n=62) of responses were against nuclear power generation for export. Those who were opposed to nuclear power generation for export were likely to say that they did not want to see the province producing nuclear power to support the oil sands in Alberta or to provide power to the United States.

Of the total 14% of responses supporting nuclear power, 12% (n=167) were in favour of power generation in general, but a small percentage of responses (2%, n=23) supported Saskatchewan moving toward nuclear power generation with the intent of exporting the surplus power.

Figure 6: Nuclear Power Generation in Saskatchewan: Support and Opposition for Generation, with or without Exporting Surplus Power (% of responses)



Region

There were some differences in support for and opposition for nuclear generation by public meeting regions in the province. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=3), Lloydminster (97%, n=242), and Prince Albert (95%, n=314) were more likely to be opposed to nuclear generation than those from the other regions. Those from La Ronge (61%, n=8), North Battleford (78%, n=39), Saskatoon (70%, n=183), Yorkton (84%, n=43), Regina (84%, n=195), Swift Current (69%, n=33), Estevan (64%, n=14), and the Athabasca Basin (60%, n=6) were slightly less likely to be opposed than the others. There was a fairly large group of responses that could not be linked to any region in the province: those responses were over three-quarters in opposition to nuclear generation.

The "don't know" or not stated responses also varied by region in the province. The percentage of don't know responses was highest in the Athabasca Basin, followed by La Ronge, Swift Current, and Estevan.

In addition to the responses that expressed opposition to the development of a nuclear power facility, a survey of Saskatchewan nurses commissioned by the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses found that most (62%, n=508) of the 822 respondents did not want a nuclear power plant, followed by 29% (n=236) who were conditionally supportive of a nuclear facility once all health concerns were addressed.

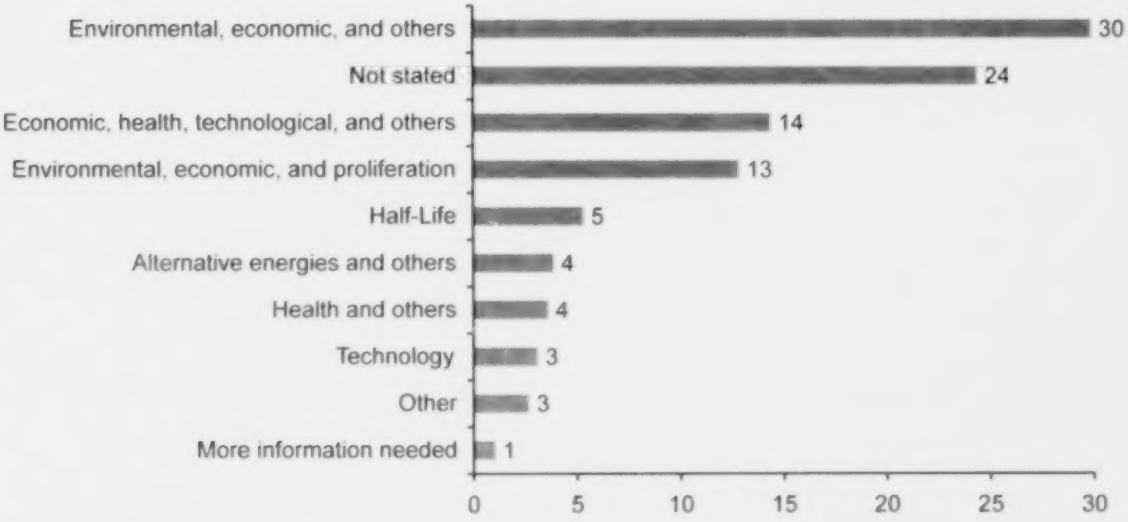
1.1 Reasons for Opposition to Nuclear Power Generation

Nearly one-quarter (24%, n=285) of responses did not provide a reason for their opinion, but they did come with a clear statement that theystrongly opposed nuclear power in all forms. The rest of the responses included references to environmental issues and the need to ensure sustainability; economic factors, and the employment question; social and educational impacts; health impacts; governmental and private sector relationships; nuclear proliferation; the need to move toward alternative energies; technology; and the lengthy half-life of uranium that makes it necessary to think very long term about the implications of creating, using, and storing uranium throughout the power cycle. While some responses focused on one of these issues, most responses addressed many of these issues (see Figure 7).

Nearly one-third (30%, n=350) referred to a combination of environmental, economic, and other concerns related to nuclear power generation. Environmental issues – and sustainability – made up a great deal of the opposed responses. Environmental issues identified were many, including that nuclear power would negatively impact the land – particularly agricultural land – and the water needed to support the power plant, and how would nuclear generation be sustainable if Saskatchewan only had 40-50 years of uranium left? Environmental issues also included references to the need to be cautious about where to locate a power plant because of such implications. Other concerns included those focused on health and safety issues and the limitations of technology.

Another 13% (n=150) of responses focused on the environment in combination with economic factors such as the cost of reactors and the opportunity cost associated with nuclear power: developing nuclear energy may prevent the greater development of alternative energies. In addition to nuclear proliferation, there was concern about ensuring that Saskatchewan's way forward would not endanger the rest of the world.

Figure 7: Nuclear Power Generation in Saskatchewan: Reasons for Opposition to Generation, with or without Exporting Surplus Power (% of responses)



Fourteen per cent of responses (n=168) focused on a combination of economic, health/safety-related, technological, and other issues related to their opposition to nuclear power generation. Smaller percentages of responses addressed concerns about the half-life of uranium (5%, n=62); the need to move toward alternative energies and other issues (4%, n= 45); concerns about health/safety problems related to nuclear power (4%, n= 42), including concerns about childhood diseases, incidence rates of cancers, impacts on workers, and health impacts for the general population; and concerns around nuclear technology not being adequate or being outdated (3%, n=36). Other issues raised included society-related concerns such as worries about the societal impacts associated with building a nuclear power plant and the influx of employees into a given area, which might lead to housing shortages, and concerns over the inability of the province to provide the skilled and experienced labour needed for such a project; as well as the concerns people had about the private sector being involved in such an important project for Saskatchewan people (3%, n=31). Finally, 1% (n=3) identified that more information about nuclear power generation was needed for Saskatchewan people.

While it seems that the responses from people who were opposed to nuclear power were not focused on the need for more information, this is actually not the case. In fact, many of the "others" in the groupings in Figure 7 indicate the need for more information. Responses specified that more information was needed on the environmental, economic, and health impacts of nuclear power generation. They had questions about alternative energies and why Saskatchewan was not aggressively developing wind and solar power, along with other alternative sources of power generation. Many wondered if alternative energy production might be a better way to contribute to local economies through the distribution of employment throughout the province.

Region

When it comes to why responses were opposed to nuclear power generation, there are observable differences among regions. La Ronge (38%, n=3), Lloydminster (43%, n=104), North Battleford (31%, n=12), Saskatoon (32%, n=58), Yorkton (33%, n=14), and Estevan (50%, n=3) responses were more likely than the others to point to a combination of environmental, economic, and other factors. Responses from La Ronge (25%, n=2), North Battleford (18%, n=7), Saskatoon (19%, n=34), Yorkton (29%, n=12), Swift Current (15%, n=5), and Athabasca Basin (17%, n=1) were more likely than the others to identify a combination of economic, health, technological, and other reasons. Those from Prince Albert (48%, n=149) were more likely than all of the others to point to a combination of environmental, economic, and proliferation-related issues.

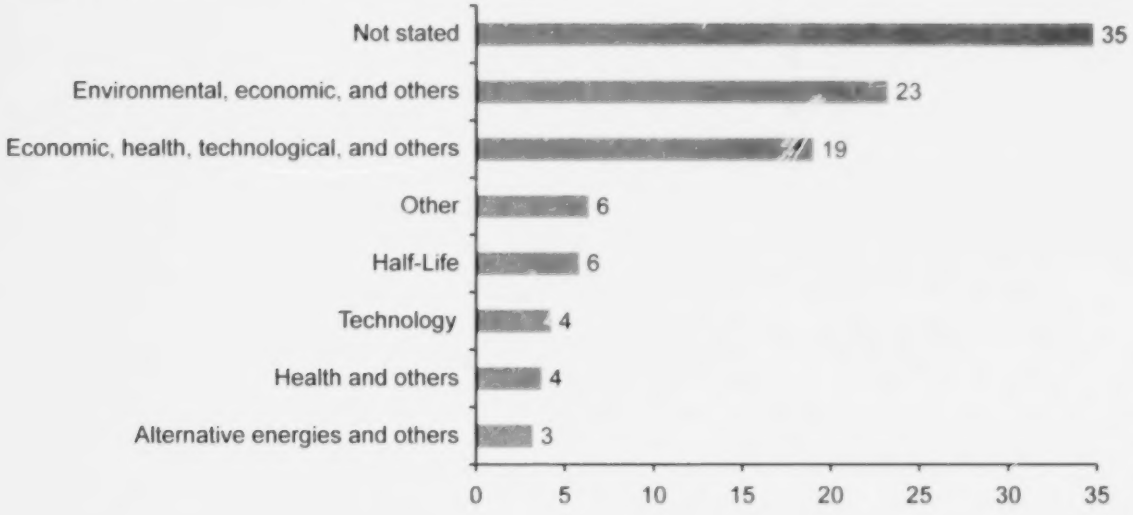
Responses from Yorkton (7%, n=3) and Regina (18%, n=35) were more likely to speak to the half life of uranium, while those from La Ronge (25%, n=1), Saskatoon (8%, n=15), Regina (5%, n=1), and Swift Current (27%, n=9) were more likely than the others to focus on alternative energies and others. Health and other issues were more likely to be addressed by responses from Saskatoon (6%, n=11), Regina (6%, n=12), Swift Current (9%, n=3), Estevan (14%, n=2), and the Athabasca Basin (50%, n=3), while technology was more likely to be a focus for some responses from Saskatoon (6%, n=11), Yorkton (5%, n=2), Regina (6%, n=11). Other issues, including social and private sector-related issues, were more likely to be highlighted by La Ronge (13%, n=1), North Battleford (10%, n=4), Yorkton (5%, n=2), Regina (5%, n=10), and Athabasca Basin (17%, n=1). Slightly more responses from North Battleford (3%, n=1) and Regina (1%, n=2) identified that they required more information.

1.2 Reasons for Supporting Nuclear Power Generation

While the majority of responses focused on opposition to nuclear power generation for Saskatchewan, a sizable number (n=190) did support nuclear power generation. While one-third (35%, n=66) of responses supporting nuclear power did not come with reasons, the remaining two-thirds (65%) did, as shown in Figure 8. The most frequently given reasons related to a combination of environmental reasons, employment, and the economy (23%, n=44). Environmental factors included suggestions that nuclear power is clean, a way to address climate change, and a good alternative to Saskatchewan's current use of coal. Others questioned whether the UDP Report's estimation of the province's uranium reserves was accurate, suggesting that Saskatchewan could have more uranium than previously estimated. Nuclear power generation was seen as an economic boost, something that Saskatchewan could afford, and something that the province could not afford not to do. Moreover, it would provide employment, both through direct employment in the nuclear industry and in indirect employment for industry services. In addition, should the province sell surplus power, it would be a positive economic boost.

The next biggest groups of responses included economic, health, technological, and other factors (19%, n=36). Health-related responses included references to the unproven nature of studies that supported nuclear power being linked with particular diseases. Responses focusing on technology highlighted the proven nuclear technology that Saskatchewan could access. Responses pointed out that alternative energies were not without their challenges, and that they were not necessarily better than – or less expensive than – nuclear power. Small percentages of responses focused on other reasons (6%, n=12), including social and private sector-related concerns; these responses highlighted the social benefits of greater employment associated with nuclear power, as well as the benefits of training people to work in this industry. They also note that the private sector has a good record in Canada of safely providing nuclear power.

Figure 8: Nuclear Power Generation in Saskatchewan: Reasons for Support for Generation, with or without Exporting Surplus Power (% of responses)



Another 6% (n=11) pointed to the half-life of uranium, saying that it could be safely managed over time, while 4% (n=8) said that nuclear power generation technology had been used for years and could meet the needs of the province. Four per cent (n=7) pointed to a combination of health and other reasons, while 3% (n=6) said that alternative energies – in combination with other factors – could not supply the baseload power that nuclear could, and that that information should be taken into consideration when making decisions about meeting future power needs.

Region

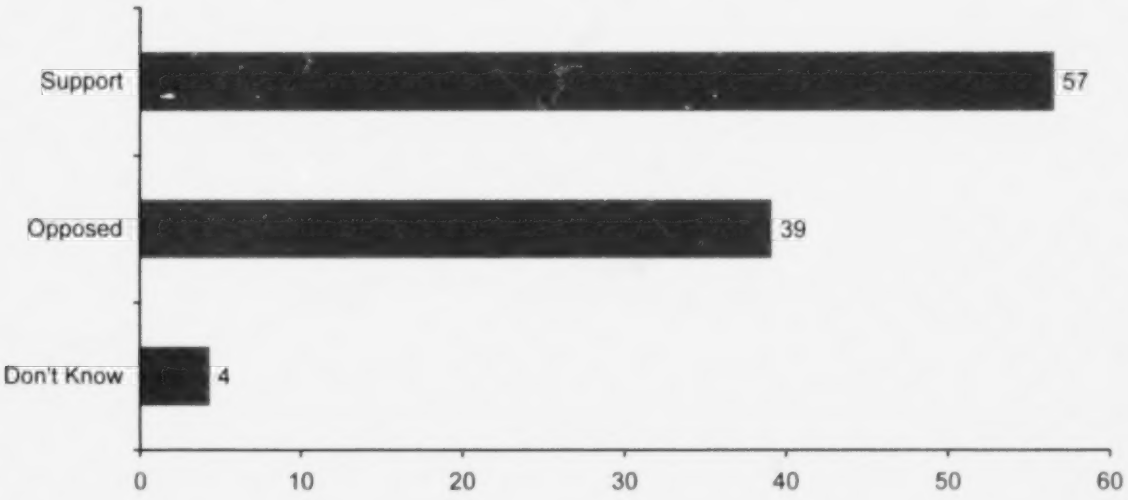
There were some observable differences among regional responses when it came to support for nuclear power generation. Environmental, economic, and other factors were more likely to be highlighted in responses from La Ronge (25%, n=1), Lloydminster (29%, n=2), Regina (39%, n=12), and Estevan (43%, n=3) than in the other regions. Responses from La Ronge (50%, n=2), Lloydminster (29%, n=2), Prince Albert (275, n=4), Regina (26%, n=8), and Estevan (43%, n=3) were more likely than the other regions to point to a combination of economic, health, technology, and other reasons for supporting nuclear power generation.

Prince Albert (7%, n=1), North Battleford (9%, n=1), Yorkton (38%, n=3), and Swift Current (8%, n=1) responses were more likely than the others to point to other reasons, while Swift Current (50%), n=6) responses were more likely to point to half-life related reasons for support. Technology-related reasons were more often given in Prince Albert (7%, n=1), North Battleford (9%, n=1), Yorkton (38%, n=3), Swift Current (8%, n=1) than in other regions, while Yorkton (13%, n=1) and Swift Current (8%, n=1) pointed to health and other reasons. Lastly, Lloydminster (29%, n-2) and Prince Albert (13%, n=2) responses were more likely than the others to point to issues related to alternative energies and others.

1.3 Nuclear Generation Technology

A small number of responses (n=23) from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton, and Estevan dealt specifically with nuclear generation technology (see Figure 9) rather than focusing on nuclear power more generally. For many of these responses, references to nuclear generation technology include specific references to nuclear power and whether or not the technology was suitable for use in Saskatchewan or if there were too many issues related to the technology for Saskatchewan to consider its use. Of those responses, 57% (n=13) were supportive of the technology, 39% (n=9) were against it, and 4% (n=1) did not know what to think.

Figure 9: Support for and Opposition to Nuclear Generation Technology (% of responses)



Region

Supportive responses from Saskatoon (50%, n=1), Regina (25%, n=1), and Prince Albert (44%, n=4) were more likely to mention implementation as a reason for adopting nuclear generation technology, meaning that the available technology could be accessed at any point so that the transition to nuclear power would be relatively smooth. Prince Albert responses (44%, n=4) were more likely to mention the need for further research and development in nuclear technology. In addition, supportive responses from Yorkton (100%, n=2), Regina (50%, n=2), and Estevan (67%, n=2) were more likely to focus on implementation, and research and development. Responses from Prince Albert (11%, n=1) were more likely to point to needing more information, while those from Regina (25%, n=1) identified other reasons for going with nuclear generation technology.

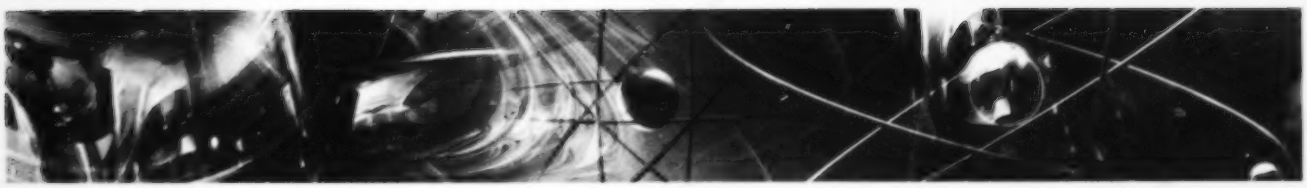
Responses opposing nuclear generation technology from Estevan (50%, n=1) were more likely to deal with implementation as a reason for not going with nuclear generation technology, indicating that it would be a complex, expensive process. On the other hand, responses from Prince Albert (100%, n=1) were more likely than Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, or Estevan to mention research and development. Implementation and research and development were given as a reason more often by Yorkton (100%, n=1), Regina (100%, n=1), and Saskatoon (100%, n=1) responses.

1.4 Summary

Overall, while there is some support for nuclear power generation, the overwhelming response to this public consultation was that nuclear power generation should not be a choice for Saskatchewan, whether it is intended to serve the needs of Saskatchewan people only, or for a combination of Saskatchewan people and other provinces or states.

Responses opposed to nuclear power generation for the province spoke most often to environmental concerns, but also highlighted concerns about economic benefits, health and safety impacts, technological limitations of nuclear power, concerns about nuclear proliferation, and the long half-life of uranium. Those supportive of nuclear power generation referred to environmental benefits associated with a "green" process like nuclear generation as well as the economic benefits – for both industry and for individual workers – and the spin-offs for communities and for the province. They talked about the limitations in the health studies being cited and how the health benefits of a cleaner fuel outweighed other potential concerns.

Finally, the demand for information in this area was strong. People raised questions throughout the consultation process about Saskatchewan's power needs, the technology around nuclear power, and the health, environmental, and social impacts of nuclear power.



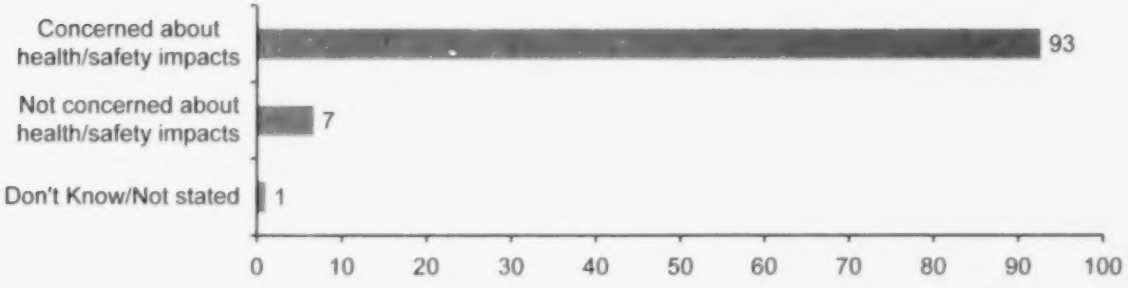
Theme 2: Concerns about Health, Safety, and the Environment

Health, safety, and concern for the environment are intertwined as the primary concerns related to uranium development raised by people across the province. The health of a community includes the health and safety of individuals, but also the social, environmental (including water and agriculture), and economic health of that community. Additionally, responses addressed the role of the Saskatchewan community within the world, and its obligations to the wider society's health and wellbeing. Nearly 600 responses focused on health and environmental concerns alone, along with specific concerns voiced about agriculture in the province (n=18), the watershed (n=83), the safety of nuclear plants and potential accidents (n=228), and nuclear proliferation (n=42).

2.1 Health and Safety

Nearly 300 responses dealt specifically with concerns about health and safety impacts of uranium development, as shown in Figure 10. Of those, 93% (n=263) expressed concerns about potential health and safety impacts, while 7% (n=19) were not concerned.

Figure 10: Health and Safety Impacts of Uranium (% of responses)



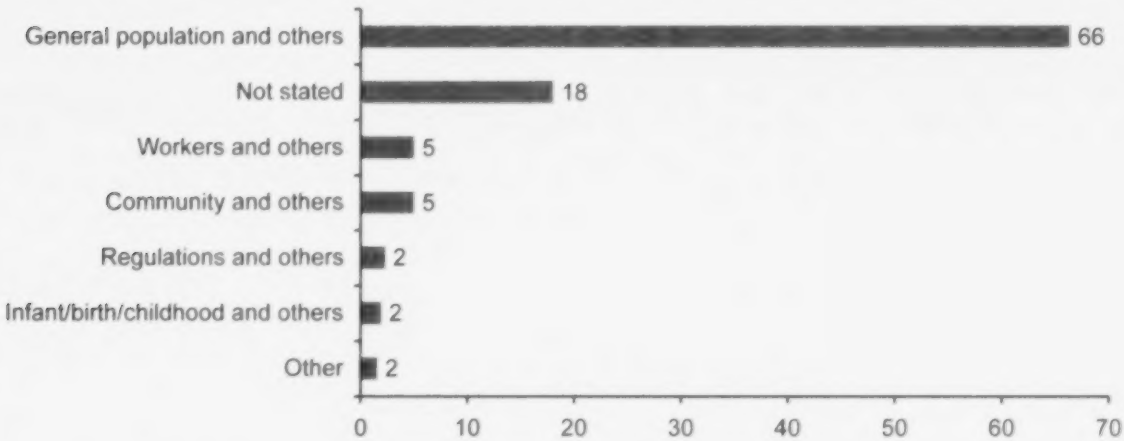
There were regional differences in whether or not responses expressed concerns about health and safety impacts due to uranium development. Responses from La Ronge (100%, n=1), Lloydminster (100%, n=96), Prince Albert (97%, n=55), Swift Current (100%, n=3), and Estevan (100%, n=2) were more likely to report being concerned, as compared with North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Regina responses. Those from North Battleford (38%, n=3), Saskatoon (13%, n=4), Yorkton (8%, n=1), and Regina (10%, n=6) were more likely than the others to express that they were not concerned about the health and safety impacts of uranium development.

a. Concerns about Health and Safety

The majority of responses indicated that people have concerns about the health and safety impacts of uranium, as seen in Figure 11. Two-thirds (66%, n=173) of those expressed concerns about the health and safety impacts on the general population and others, including family, future generations, and children. Eighteen per cent (n=47) of responses did not focus on whom they were concerned about with regard to health and safety. Five per cent (n=13) indicated concerns about the health and safety of workers and others, focusing on their concerns about the safety of employees working with nuclear reactors. Another 5% (n=13) talked about the community and others. Some people suggested that the rapid economic development associated with the expansion of mining and exploration, the creation of a waste management site, or the building of a nuclear power plant can create social and economic problems in communities – much like what Alberta's Fort McMurray has experienced. Some also pointed to environmental degradation associated with uranium mining in places like Uranium City.

A small percentage (2%, n=6) expressed concerns about regulations in the nuclear industry being inadequate, while an equivalent percentage (2%, n=5) pointed to the potential impacts on infants, children, and youth. Furthermore, people raised concerns about specific health impacts associated with nuclear power, including reproductive system concerns and childhood cancers.

Figure 11: Why Concerned About Health and Safety Impacts of Uranium (% of responses)



In addition to those responses expressing concerns about health and safety, a survey of nurses commissioned by the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses found that most (90%, n=739) of the 822 respondents were concerned about the health implications of a nuclear power plant.

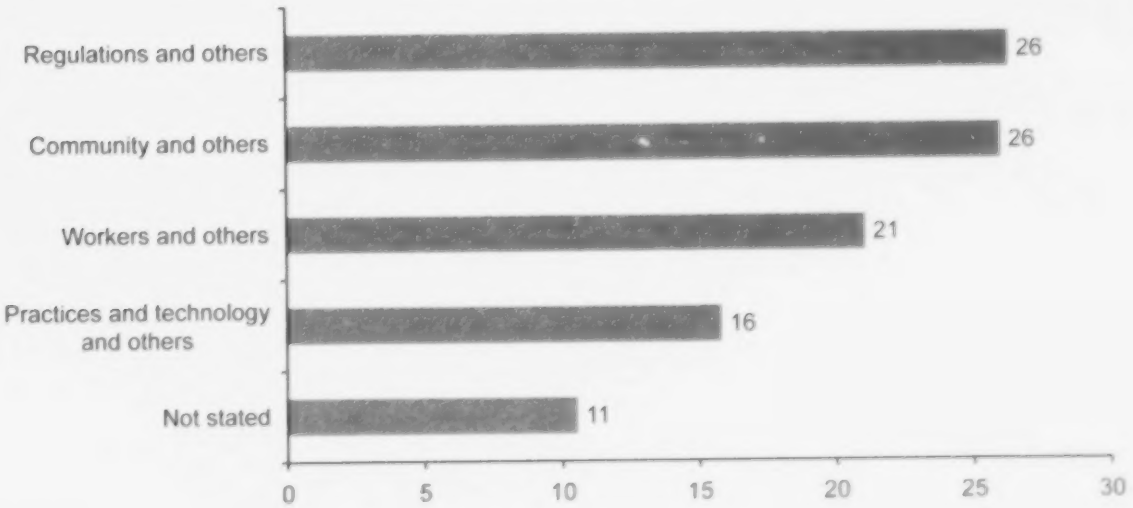
Region

Differences were evident among regions when it came to why people were concerned about the health and safety impacts of uranium. Those responses from La Ronge (100%, n=1), Lloydminster (95%, n=90), and Regina (71%, n=37) were more likely than those from Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Swift Current, and Estevan to specify they were concerned about the general population and others. Workers and others were emphasized in responses from Prince Albert (7%, n=3), Saskatoon (8%, n=2), and Yorkton (27%, n=3), while Prince Albert (6%, n=3), Saskatoon (12%, n=3), Yorkton (9%, n=1), and Regina (8%, n=4) responses were more likely to emphasize health and safety impacts on the community and others. Regulations and other reasons were more frequently identified in responses from Prince Albert (4%, n=2), Saskatoon (4%, n=1), and Yorkton (9%, n=1), while health issues related to childhood and others were emphasized in responses from Prince Albert (4%, n=2), North Battleford (20%, n=1), and Yorkton (9%, n=1).

b. Not Concerned about Health and Safety

Despite the majority expressing concerns about the nuclear industry, there are members of the public who feel satisfied that nuclear power is safe, as shown in Figure 12. One-quarter (26%, n=5) point to the regulation of nuclear power. They say that the sector is sufficiently regulated, and that those regulations ensure safety. Another 26% (n=5) point to the community benefits from the nuclear industry as well as saying that much of the information about nuclear power is actually misinformation, which misleads the public rather than informing them. Some have also said that nuclear fission is a naturally occurring process – it is a part of nature. Nearly one-quarter (21%, n=4) pointed to workers and others, in that workers themselves are highly trained individuals that are expected to prevent any health or safety issues. Practices and technology were identified in another 16% (n=3) of responses, speaking generally to the advanced practices that have become part of the nuclear sector and the continuously improved technology that goes into both nuclear power plants and waste management systems.

Figure 12: Why Not Concerned about Health and Safety Impacts of Uranium [% of responses]



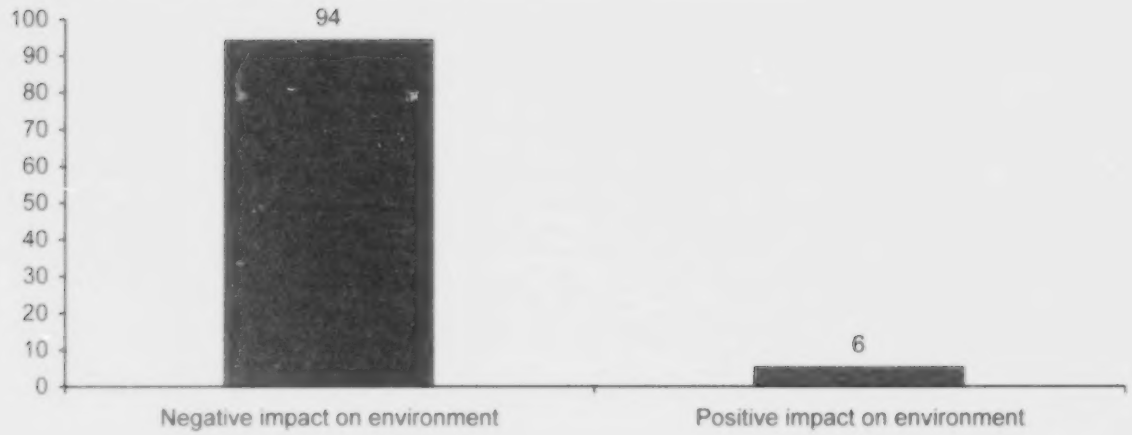
Region

Differences between regions are observable when it comes to providing reasons why people are not concerned about the health and safety impacts of uranium. North Battleford responses (100%, n=3) were more likely than the others to point to regulations and other reasons for nuclear health and safety, while those from Regina (33%, n=2) were more likely to point to community and others reasons. Workers and others were identified more frequently by Prince Albert (50%, n=1) and Saskatoon (25%, n=1) responses, while Yorkton (100%, n=1) and Regina (33%, n=2) responses were more likely than the others to point to practices, technology, and other reasons why they believe uranium is safe.

2.2 Environment

Nearly 300 responses focused specifically on environmental impacts associated with nuclear power. Of the 290 responses, 94% (n=274) said that nuclear power would have a negative impact on the environment (see Figure 13). Six per cent (n=16) of the responses dealt with positive impacts on the environment associated with nuclear power.

Figure 13: Impact of Nuclear Power on Environment (% of responses)

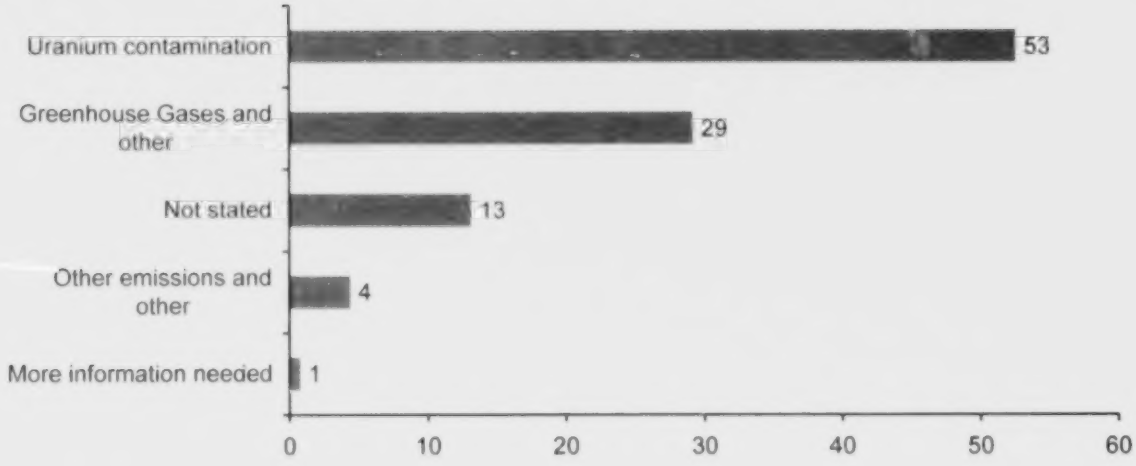


Region

Responses from La Ronge (100%, n=1), Lloydminster (100%, n=93), Swift Current (100%, n=5), North Battleford (100%, n=11), Estevan (100%, n=1), and Prince Albert (96%, n=47) were slightly more likely than responses from the other regions to indicate that nuclear power has a negative impact on the environment. Responses from Saskatoon (12%, n=4) and Regina (12%, n=7) were slightly more likely than responses from the other regions to say that nuclear power has a positive impact on the environment.

Responses from people saying that nuclear power will have a negative impact on the environment provide a series of explanations (Figure 14, n=274). Over half (53%, n=144) refer to uranium contamination of the environment. Greenhouse gas production is also on the minds of people who addressed the environmental impacts of nuclear power. Nearly one-third (29%, n=80) mentioned greenhouse gases and how the production of nuclear energy does not exclude the production of greenhouse gases. Moreover, these responses address concerns about both greenhouse gases and industry practices and technologies. They suggested that nuclear power technology is old-fashioned and cannot adequately address concerns about the impact of nuclear power on the environment. Other responses included issues around emissions other than greenhouse gases (4%, n=12) and other issues. Some also said that they needed more information about the environmental impacts of nuclear power (1%, n=2).

Figure 14: Negative Environmental Impacts of Nuclear Power (% of responses)



Region

Responses from Lloydminster (95%, n=88) and Prince Albert (64%, n=30) were more likely than those from La Ronge, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, or Estevan to indicate that they were concerned about the environmental impact of uranium development due to potential uranium contamination. Those from Yorkton (60%, n=9), Regina (71%, n=37), and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to greenhouse gases and other issues as a concern, while those from Yorkton (7%, n=1), Regina (6%, n=3), and Swift Current (60%, n=3) were more likely to identify other emissions and other issues as being an environmental problem. A few responses from Prince Albert (2%, n=1) and Saskatoon (3%, n=1) were slightly more likely to say that they needed additional information.

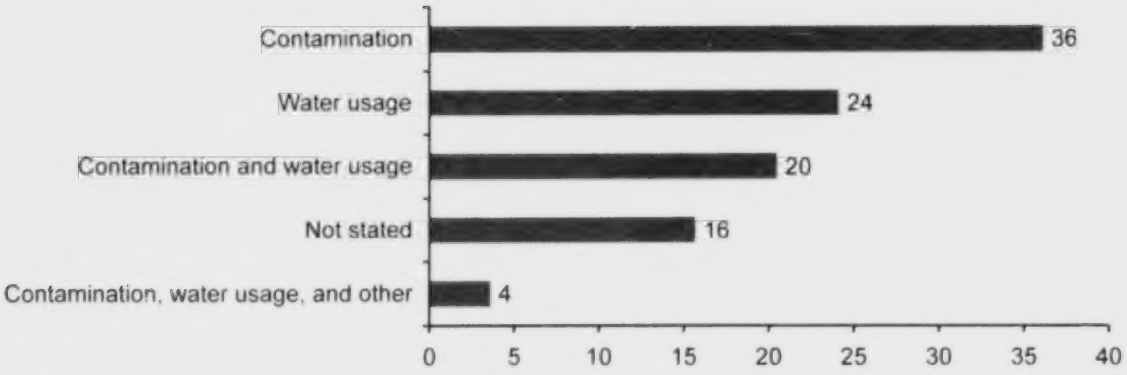
Those responses from Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Regina that supported nuclear energy's positive impact on the environment focused on the presence of greenhouse gases (75%, n=12) and other positive impacts. In terms of greenhouse gases, people indicated that nuclear power did not contribute greenhouse gases, and thus could be considered "greener" for the environment. These other impacts included the strength of regulation designed to both manage nuclear power generation and waste management while minimizing environmental impacts.

2.3 Watershed

Fewer than 100 responses from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, and Estevan dealt specifically with water and the uranium industry. All of those (n=83) expressed concerns about the impact of uranium – throughout the value chain – on water.

As seen in Figure 15, over one-third (36%, n=30) expected that uranium would contaminate ground water, particularly when talking about nuclear power and waste storage. They were concerned about what the nuclear power plant's use of water would do to the water itself. About one-quarter (24%, n=20) said that nuclear power plant water usage would be problematic. They expressed concerns about the water needs of a nuclear power plant and whether farmers and ranchers in proximity of a power plant would have access to the water they needed to grow food and nourish animals.

Figure 15: Concerns about Impact of Uranium on Watershed (% of responses)



A further 20% (n=17) of responses emphasized the impact of uranium on both water contamination and water usage. A small percentage (4%, n=3) combined concerns about contamination, water usage, and other water-related impacts. Some wanted to know how other communities had been affected by the introduction and maintenance of a nearby nuclear power plant.

Region

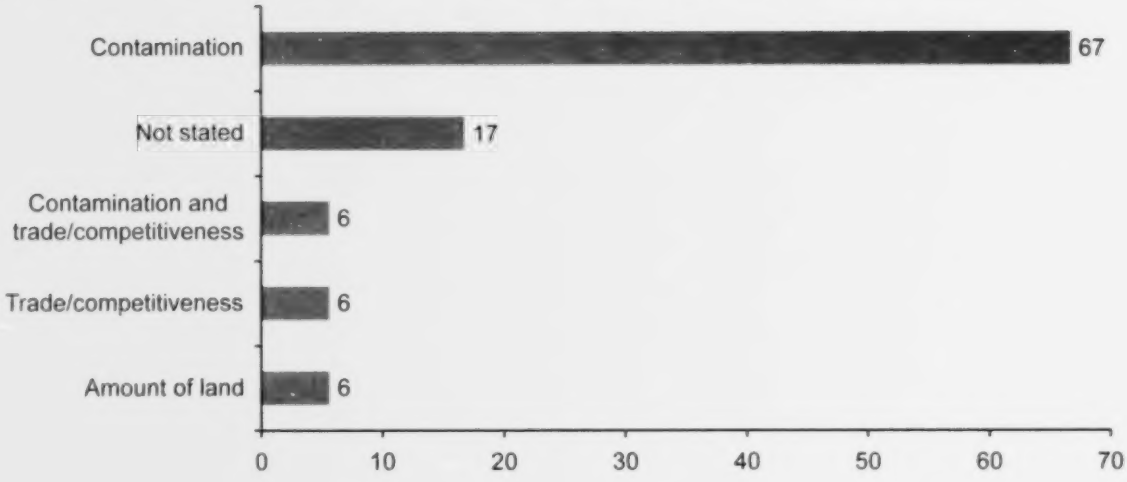
There were some differences among responses from different regions in the province when it came to concerns about the impact of uranium on the province's watershed. Responses from North Battleford (100%, n=2), Saskatoon (39%, n=5), Yorkton (43%, n=3), Regina (38%, n=9), Swift Current (50%, n=2), and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely than responses from Lloydminster and Prince Albert to point to contamination as an important concern. Those from Lloydminster (67%, n=2), Saskatoon (31%, n=4), and Yorkton (43%, n=3) were more likely to point to water usage as an issue, while those from Saskatoon (23%, n=3), Regina, (33%, n=8), and Swift Current (50%, n=2) were more likely to talk about contamination and water usage together. Finally, those from Yorkton (14%, n=1) and Regina (8%, n=2) were more likely to point to a combination of issues: contamination, water usage, and others.

2.4 Agriculture

As with many of the environmental issues discussed throughout the public consultation process, agriculture relates to water and the environment more generally. Eighteen responses from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Regina focused solely on the negative impacts of uranium and nuclear energy on agriculture, but it is important to note that agriculture was discussed as part of concerns around the watershed as well. It is also significant that many farmers and ranchers organized to write letters and sign petitions during the public consultation process, indicating how vital their concerns around the impact of uranium on farming and ranching are to them.

Of the eighteen responses focusing on the impact of uranium on agriculture in the province, the majority (67%, n=12) centred on concerns around contamination – as with the concerns around water (see Figure 16). Other issues mentioned included the amount of land that would be affected by nuclear power generation and waste management, the impact nuclear power generation would have on the competitiveness of products grown and produced in the province – particularly for organic farmers—and the interrelationship between contamination and competitiveness (18%, n=3).

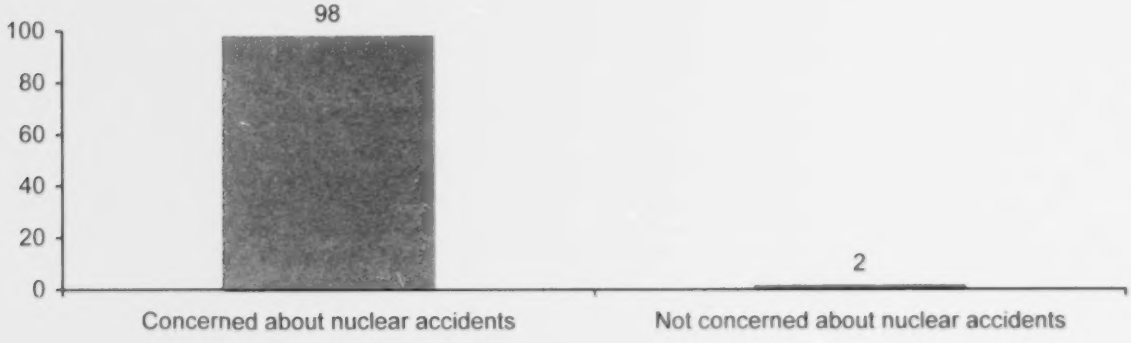
Figure 16: Impact of Uranium Development on Agriculture (% of responses)



2.5 Nuclear Accidents

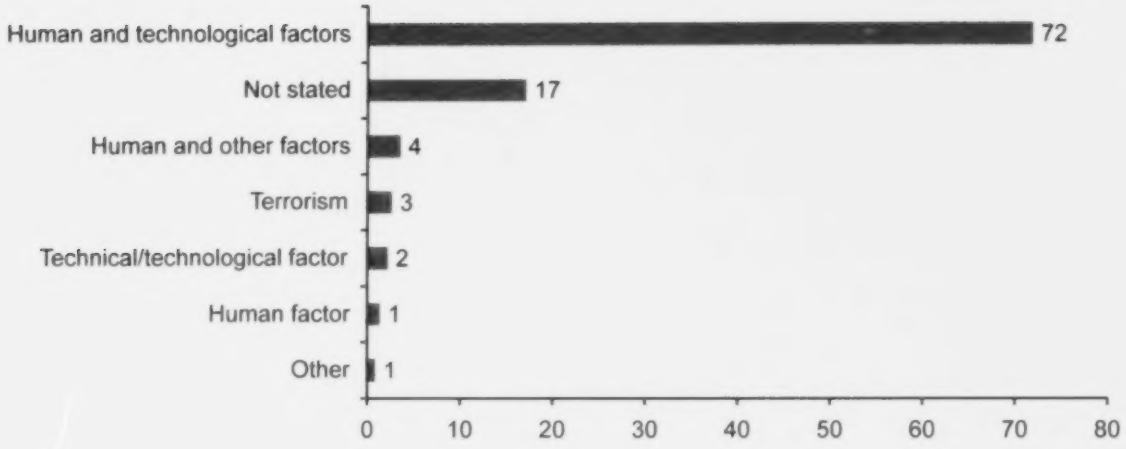
Over 200 responses addressed both concerns about nuclear accidents and a lack of concern about potential nuclear accidents, as shown in Figure 17. The vast majority (98%, n=224) of those responses expressed concern about nuclear accidents, while a small percentage (2%, n=4) said that they were not concerned about nuclear accidents. Responses from Regina were slightly more likely (7%, n=4) than responses from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Swift Current, North Battleford, Saskatoon, and Yorkton to say that they were not concerned about nuclear accidents.

Figure 17: Nuclear Accidents (% of responses)



Many of the responses expressing concerns about nuclear accidents have said that nuclear power is unsafe. They provide examples of recent nuclear problems and disasters, including those at Three Mile Island (USA), at Chernobyl (Ukraine), and in Germany. Of those responses expressing concern about potential nuclear accidents, nearly three-quarters (72%, n=164) emphasize that human error and technological factors can lead to accidents (see Figure 18). Human error, along with other factors, is indicated by an additional 4% (n=8), and another 1% (n=3) on its own. Terrorism accounts for 3% (n=8) of the responses, while technical or technological factors make up 2% (n=5) of the reasons why people are concerned about nuclear accidents.

Figure 18: Concern about What Leads to Nuclear Accidents (% of responses)

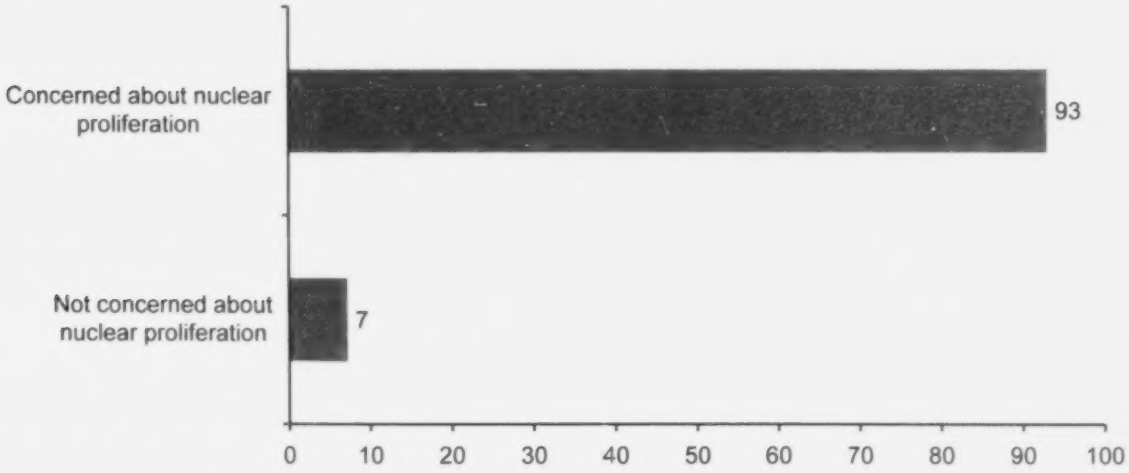


Responses which indicated that they were not concerned about the possibility of nuclear accidents pointed to their confidence in the nuclear technology and practices (50%, n=2), as well as their confidence in technology and in human factors (25%, n=1), while a small percentage did not indicate why they were not concerned (25%, n=1).

2.6 Nuclear Proliferation

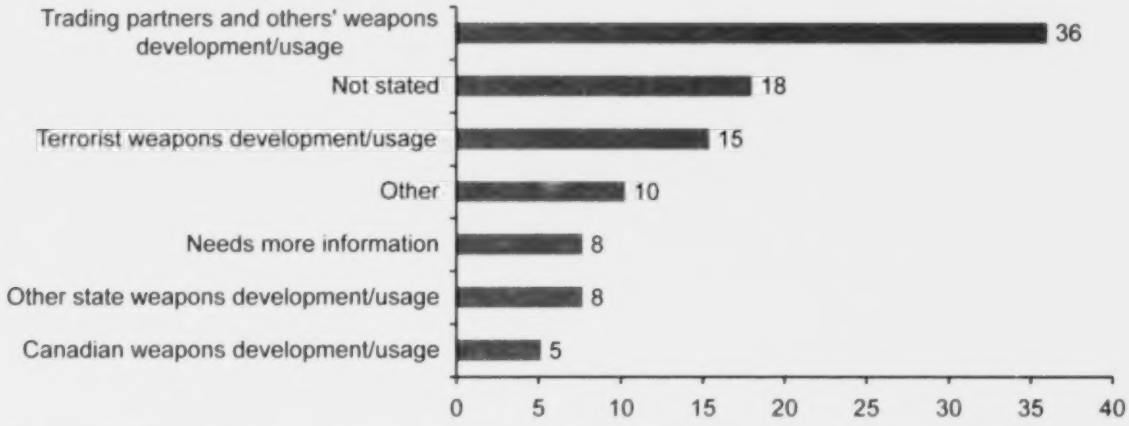
Fewer than fifty responses from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, and Swift Current addressed issues around nuclear proliferation (see Figure 19). Almost all – 93% (n=39) – indicated that they were concerned about nuclear proliferation, while 7% (n=3) of the responses were not concerned about nuclear proliferation.

Figure 19: Concerned or Not Concerned About Nuclear Proliferation (% of responses)



Of the responses that focused on concern about nuclear proliferation, shown in Figure 20, the largest group was concerned about Canada's trading partners and others using Saskatchewan uranium for weapons development and use (36%, n=14). The second largest group did not indicate their reason for concern (18%, n=7).

Figure 20: Concern About Nuclear Proliferation (% of responses)



The next group of responses centred on the use of Saskatchewan uranium for terrorist weapons deployment and usage (15%, n=6), other state weapons development and usage (8%, n=3), and Canadian weapons development and usage (5%, n=2). People from across the province raised security as an issue, referring to weapons made with Saskatchewan uranium. Just under one in ten (8%, n=3) of these responses indicated that more information about nuclear proliferation is needed in order to better understand Saskatchewan's potential role in proliferation through the supply of uranium; Canada's plan to prevent nuclear proliferation; along with references to international treaties regarding the trading of uranium.

2.7 Summary

Health, safety, and the environment were major issues for people participating in the public consultation process.

The vast majority of responses were concerned about the health and safety impacts of uranium development, not only for the general population but for families, children, and future generations of Saskatchewan people. They were also concerned about the safety impacts of uranium development on workers. However, others pointed to the strong regulations in the uranium sector, which aim to ensure that both workers and communities remain safe.

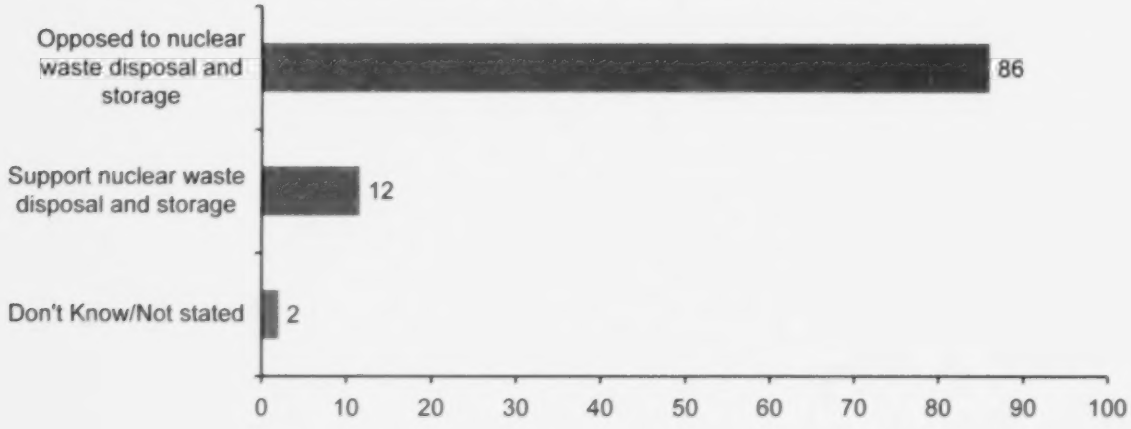
Environmental degradation was also a concern of a significant number of people throughout the public consultation process. The majority argued that nuclear power would have a negative impact on the environment, including on agriculture, the watershed, and wildlife. They were very concerned about uranium contamination. On the other hand, some pointed out that nuclear energy could have a positive impact on the environment overall, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The watershed was an area of concern for many people, particularly around potential contamination of the water and effects on water supply. Others pointed to the impacts on agriculture, both with regards to access to clean water and to preventing contamination of ranching and farming lands close to nuclear reactors or waste storage. Another group of responses mention the potential for nuclear accidents – feeling certain that nuclear power was not completely safe, and referring to nuclear accidents worldwide. Finally, another group referred to nuclear proliferation and Saskatchewan's role in preventing further proliferation that may result from Saskatchewan uranium.

Theme 3: Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage

Approximately 900 responses dealt with nuclear waste disposal and storage, which includes references to used fuel or nuclear waste. The majority of these responses (86%, n=769) from people participating in the consultation process were strongly against nuclear waste disposal and storage in Saskatchewan, as shown in Figure 21. However, some responses (12%, n=103) did support waste disposal and storage in Saskatchewan. A small percentage (2%, n=23) indicated that they did not know whether they would support it: they had more questions that needed to be answered before they could decide.

Figure 21: Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage in Saskatchewan (% of responses)



Region

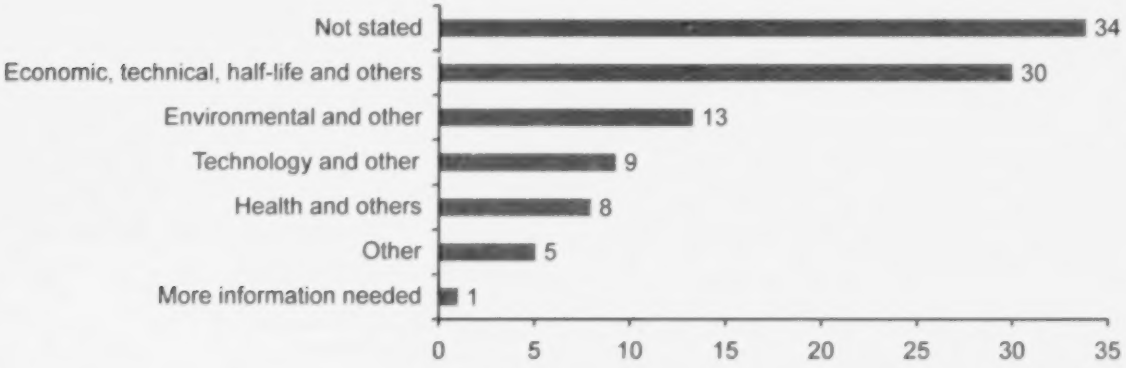
There were regional differences evident in support for or opposition to nuclear waste management. Responses from Lloydminster (85%, n=23), Regina (74%, n=89), Estevan (83%, n=5), Prince Albert (73%, n=45), Swift Current (86%, n=12), and the Athabasca Basin (75%, n=6) were more likely to be against nuclear waste management than Buffalo Narrows, North Battleford, Yorkton, La Ronge, and Saskatoon.

Responses from Buffalo Narrows (60%, n=3), Yorkton (31%, n=8), La Ronge (42%, n=5), and Saskatoon (34%, n=47) were more likely than the other regions to be in favour of nuclear waste disposal and storage.

3.1 Opposition to Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage

About one-third (34%, n=260) of the responses opposing nuclear waste disposal and storage did not indicate why they were opposed, but emphasized that they were in opposition to Saskatchewan pursuing nuclear waste disposal and storage (see Figure 22). Just over one-quarter (26%, n=234) pointed to a specific combination of factors: economic, technical, uranium half-life, and others. Many had concerns around the costs associated with storage and with the eventual closing and decommissioning of nuclear facilities. Others pointed to the need to ensure that the technical expertise associated with storing nuclear waste was tested for longer than a period of 50 or 60 years. They said that the half-life of uranium was so long that future generations of Saskatchewan people would be burdened with the management of this waste for hundreds of years after this population made a decision to go ahead with nuclear waste disposal and storage.

Figure 22: Why Opposed to Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage (% of responses)



Another percentage of responses (13%, n=102) pointed to environmental concerns around storage, including the impact of storage on the water and wildlife in the Northern areas of the province. They also questioned the rationale behind storing nuclear waste in the Northern areas of the province, wondering if people living in the North would be adequately consulted before this decision would be made. Others expressed concerns about potential for exploitation of people and the environment in the North. Some suggested that it was easier to store nuclear waste in the North than it would be in the south of the province, given the difference in population densities.

Another group (9%, n=71) of responses pointed to technological and other issues, while 8% (n=61) highlighted health and other related issues. People wondered if nuclear waste storage was safe, whether there really was a safe way to store waste, while stating that they believe waste is dangerous for a long time. Other reasons – including the role of the private sector, the need to avoid nuclear proliferation, and social issues related to the storage of nuclear waste – were identified in 5% (n=39) of responses, while a small percentage (1%, n=1) said explicitly that more information about nuclear waste storage was necessary.

Region

Across the province, there were some differences in why people opposed nuclear waste management. Economic, technical, half-life and other-related issues were more often raised in responses from Lloydminster (45%, n=102) and Prince Albert (45%, n=63), while responses from La Ronge (27%, n=3), North Battleford (39%, n=12), Saskatoon (21%, n=29), Yorkton (15%, n=3), Swift Current (44%, n=8), and Estevan (39%, n=5) more often emphasized environmental and other reasons for opposing nuclear waste disposal and storage.

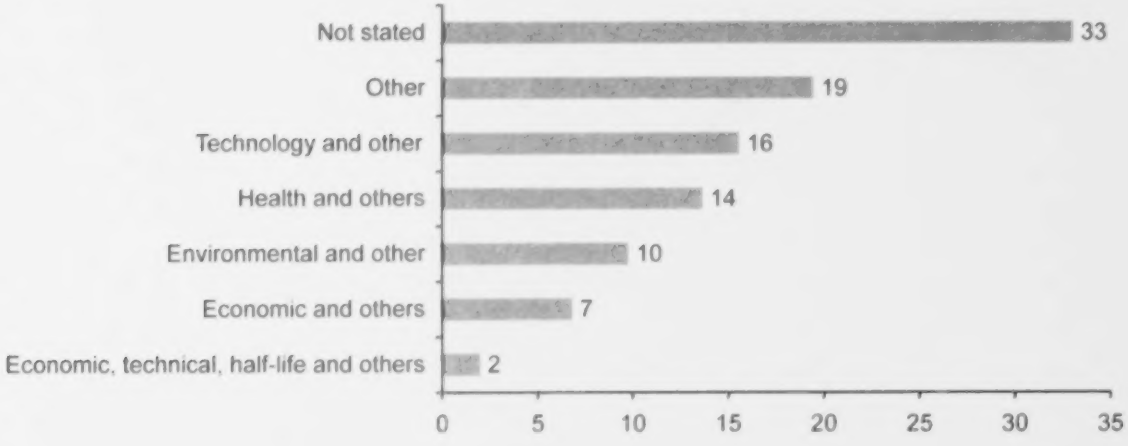
Technology-related and other reasons were more often raised in responses from La Ronge (18%, n=2), Prince Albert (15%, n=21), Saskatoon (17%, n=23), Regina (14%, n=15), and Estevan (15%, n=2), while those from La Ronge (18%, n=2), Saskatoon (12%, n=17), Yorkton (15%, n=3), Regina (18%, n=19), Estevan (23%, n=3), and the Athabasca Basin (100%, n=1) were more likely to raise concerns about health and other issues. La Ronge (9%, n=1), North Battleford (7%, n=2), Yorkton (30%, n=6), Regina (7%, n=7), and Estevan (8%, n=1) responses pointed to other issues more often than responses from other regions, while some Regina responses (1%, n=1) pointed to needing more information about nuclear waste management.

3.2 Support for Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage

While the majority of responses were opposed to nuclear waste disposal and storage for the province, 12% (n=103) did support Saskatchewan managing nuclear waste, as shown in Figure 23. One-third of those (33%, n=34) did not state why they supported this option, but 19% (n=20) pointed to a combination of reasons including social benefits to storing nuclear waste – related to the economic benefits many identified.

Another 16% (n=16) provided technological reasons, in that storage technology was now so advanced that people would not need to worry about any issues in that respect. They said that Saskatchewan had ideal natural storage facilities – primarily in the North – that could be used to manage any nuclear facility by-products. While health and safety concerns have been expressed throughout the province, 14% (n=14) of those supportive of nuclear waste disposal and storage dismissed concerns about health impacts of nuclear waste management. Ten per cent (n=10) pointed to environmental and other benefits related to the use of nuclear power and its ability to replace greenhouse gas-producing coal. Economic reasons – like the community financial benefits associated with waste storage – were identified in 7% (n=7) of the responses. Finally, a small percentage (2%, n=2) identified a combination of economic, technical, uranium half-life-related, and other reasons why they were supportive of nuclear waste disposal and storage for Saskatchewan.

Figure 23: Why Supportive of Nuclear Waste Disposal and Storage (% of responses)



Region

There were observable differences in responses between the regions in terms of why they supported nuclear waste disposal and storage for Saskatchewan. Responses from Lloydminster (20%, n=1), North Battleford (25%, n=1), Saskatoon (23%, n=9), and Swift Current (20%, n=1) were more likely than the others to point to other reasons for why they supported fuel management. Technology and other was identified more frequently in responses from Lloydminster (60%, n=3), Prince Albert (17%, n=1), Saskatoon (23%, n=9), Yorkton (17%, n=1), and Swift Current (20%, n=1), while health and other reasons were more frequently brought up in responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), North Battleford (50%, n=2), and Regina (15%, n=4). Environmental and other reasons were identified in responses from Prince Albert (17%, n=1), Yorkton (17%, n=1), Regina (15%, n=4), Swift Current (20%, n=1), and Estevan (100%, n=1). Economic and other reasons were identified more frequently in responses from Saskatoon (15%, n=6). In addition, the combination of economic, technical, uranium half-life and other reasons was also more frequently identified in Saskatoon (5%, n=2) responses.

3.3 Summary

Many members of the public spoke, in letters and in the public meetings, about their concerns around nuclear waste management. Concerns expressed across the province focused on health and safety, cost, and the distribution of costs and benefits for the province's citizens. They had questions and concerns about the impact of waste storage for future generations. Many clearly stated that they believed it is irresponsible for Saskatchewan people to commit to storing nuclear waste that may have implications for future generations. There were concerns about where a nuclear waste storage facility might be, and whether it was possible to discuss potential facilities without talking about the impacts on those communities – particularly the ones in the North. Concerns about traditional First Nations and Métis communities, hunting and fishing grounds, and environments were made clear.

However, there were participants in the public consultation process that supported a role for Saskatchewan in nuclear waste management for a combination of reasons: technology allows for it to work, particularly in the Northern areas of the province, health impacts of waste management are minimal, and there are economic benefits to moving in this direction.

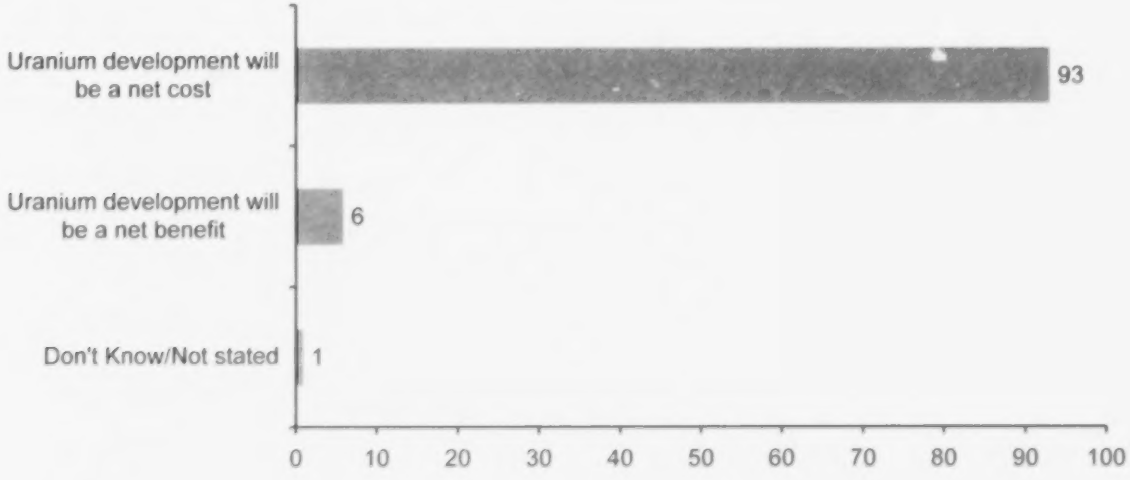
Theme 4: Costs of Uranium Development

Concerns about the costs associated with uranium development were prominent throughout the public consultation process. Through the discussion of the costs versus benefits of uranium development, 797 responses dealing with the costs of uranium development were presented.

4.1 Costs versus Benefits of Uranium Development

Nearly 350 responses focused on the costs versus benefits associated with uranium development, primarily around nuclear power generation and waste management (Figure 24). The vast majority (93%, n=321) of responses said that uranium development would result in net costs, rather than benefits. Six per cent (n=20) said that uranium development would result in net benefits. A small percentage of responses (1%, n=6) indicated that more information is needed in order to assess the true costs and benefits of uranium development.

Figure 24: Costs versus Benefits of Uranium Development (% of responses)



Region
Responses from Swift Current (100%, n=16), Lloydminster (98%, n=99) and Prince Albert (97%, n=56) were more likely to indicate that uranium development will be a net cost than responses from the other regions.

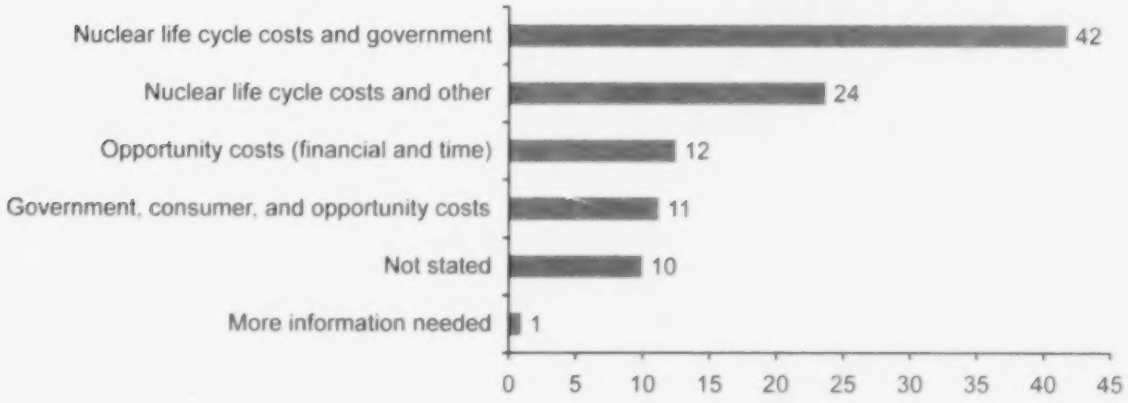
Responses from Estevan (25%, n=1), Yorkton (18%, n=2), Saskatoon (12%, n=6), Regina (9%, n=5), and North Battleford (9%, n=1) were more likely to say that uranium development will be a net benefit.

a. Reasons Why Uranium Development is a Net Cost

Many of the responses focusing on the net costs of uranium development (n=321) highlighted two reasons for these costs: nuclear life cycle costs and government-related expenditures (42%, n=134, as shown in Figure 25). Nuclear life cycle costs relate to the understanding that there are costs associated with every stage of uranium development – both financial and non-financial costs. Many noted that focusing on power generation means that it is also necessary to address waste management, and the needs of the province for the future. Many people pointed to the various costs associated with nuclear power generation. They were concerned that the costs of nuclear power generation – of building nuclear plants, hiring staff, and then managing the plants for the future – were too high, and would be risky for citizens/taxpayers of the province. They emphasized that costs of nuclear power generation could not be limited to the start up costs associated with a power plant – costs had to be understood over the lifecycle of uranium, from exploration to waste management to the eventual decommissioning of a power plant.

Some responses focused on these costs as well as the costs that government would have to take on, including financing within the industry through incentives; costs associated with infrastructure necessary to support uranium development; and costs associated with building a power plant and managing the waste it produces. Another one-quarter (24%, n=76) of the responses dealt with the nuclear life cycle in combination with other costs, meaning that two-thirds (66%) of responses focused, at least in part, on the significance of nuclear life cycle costs.

Opportunity costs were highlighted in 12% (n=40) of responses, focusing on both lost finances and time that could be used in other ways, like developing renewable energy sources. Some pointed out that investing in nuclear power generation could restrict the province's ability to invest in and expand alternative renewable sources of power. Government finances (including tax payers' contributions), consumer costs, and other issues including concerns about the cost of emissions were identified in 11% (n=36) of responses.



A small group of responses focused on the need for more information (1%, n=2). However, this number is misleading because many of the "other" categories of responses included requests for more information. In total, fourteen responses were looking for additional information on emissions pricing, consumer electricity costs, and the nuclear life cycle. These responses focused on how prices were set, what kinds of costs consumers in other jurisdictions with nuclear generated power faced, and whether the costs and benefits of uranium development had been explored by government.

Region

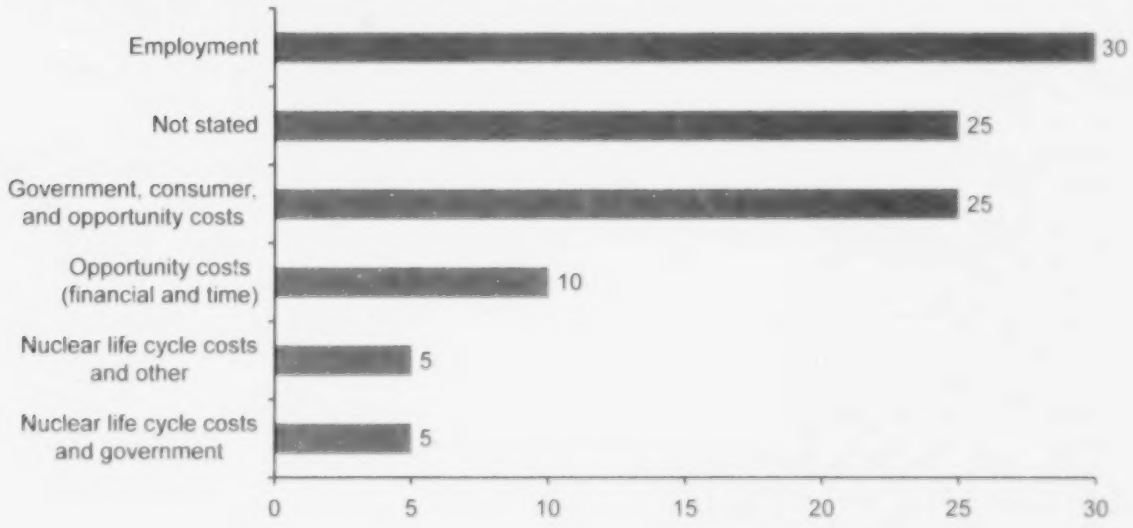
There were some regional differences to why people focused on the net costs of uranium development. Responses from Lloydminster (89%, n=88) and Prince Albert (52%, n=29) were more likely to point to the costs of the nuclear life cycle and government-related costs, while those from North Battleford (30%, n=3), Saskatoon (26%, n=11), Yorkton (50%, n=4), Regina (48%, n=25), Swift Current (44%, n=7), and Estevan (33%, n=1) were more likely than responses from the other regions to emphasize a combination of nuclear life cycle costs and others.

Opportunity costs were mentioned in a greater percentage of responses from Saskatoon (31%, n=13), Regina (17%, n=9), Swift Current (25%, n=4), and Estevan (33%, n=1) more so than in the other regions. Government, consumer, and opportunity costs were mentioned more frequently in responses from North Battleford (60%, n=6), Saskatoon (17%, n=7), Yorkton (25%, n=2), Regina (14%, n=7), Swift Current (13%, n=2), and Estevan (33%, n=1) than in Lloydminster or Prince Albert. Responses from Regina (6%, n=3) were more likely to want more information than the others.

b. Reasons Why Uranium Development is a Net Benefit

A small percentage of responses focused on the net benefits of uranium development (see Figure 26). Increased employment was the most commonly noted reason (30%, n=6), followed by a combination of government, consumer, and opportunity costs. Costs to government include the increasing costs of doing business in the nuclear sector over time as well as passing those increased costs on to the consumer. Opportunity costs – or the need to move forward with uranium development before others do in order to ensure financial benefits associated with producing nuclear power and avoiding the increasing costs over time – were also identified in 10% (n=2) of responses. Benefits associated with the nuclear life cycle – the ability to be involved in so many areas related to uranium development – are reflected in the emphasis on nuclear life cycle costs and others (5%, n=1) and nuclear life cycle costs and government-incurred costs (5%, n=1).

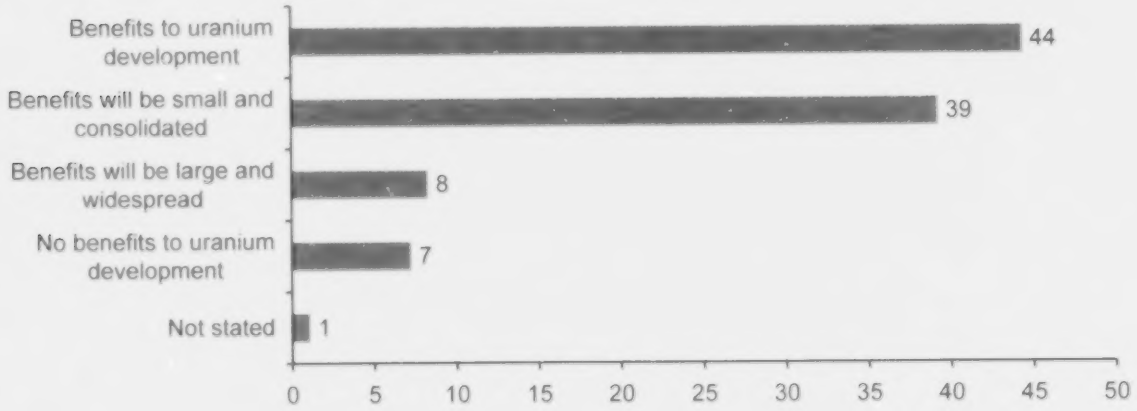
Figure 26: Reasons Why Uranium Development is a Net Benefit (% of responses)



Region
There were some regional differences in responses as to why uranium development may be a net benefit for the province. Employment was highlighted by Prince Albert (100%, n=1), Saskatoon (33%, n=2), Yorkton (50%, n=1), and Regina (40%, n=2), more often than in Lloydminster, North Battleford, or Estevan. Responses from North Battleford (100%, n=1) and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to government, consumer, and opportunity costs, while those from Saskatoon (33%, n=2) identified opportunity costs (33%, n=2) as a reason why uranium development should be a net benefit. Nuclear life cycle costs and other issues were more often identified in Saskatoon responses (17%, n=1), while nuclear life cycle costs and government costs were identified more often in responses from Regina (20%, n=1).

4.2 Benefits of Uranium Development

Although the majority of responses addressing the net costs and/or benefits of uranium development said that this kind of development would be a net cost, nearly 100 responses in the public consultation process focused on the potential benefits of uranium development without weighing them against costs (Figure 27). In total, 92% (n=89) spoke to the benefits anticipated with uranium development. Nearly half (44%, n=43) said that there would be benefits to uranium development. Another 39% (n=38) of responses focused on small and consolidated benefits, likely to be felt in one or two particular areas of the province, for example. Fewer than one in ten (8%, n=8) said that the benefits of uranium development would be large and widespread, while even fewer (7%, n=7) said that there would be no benefits to uranium development at all.

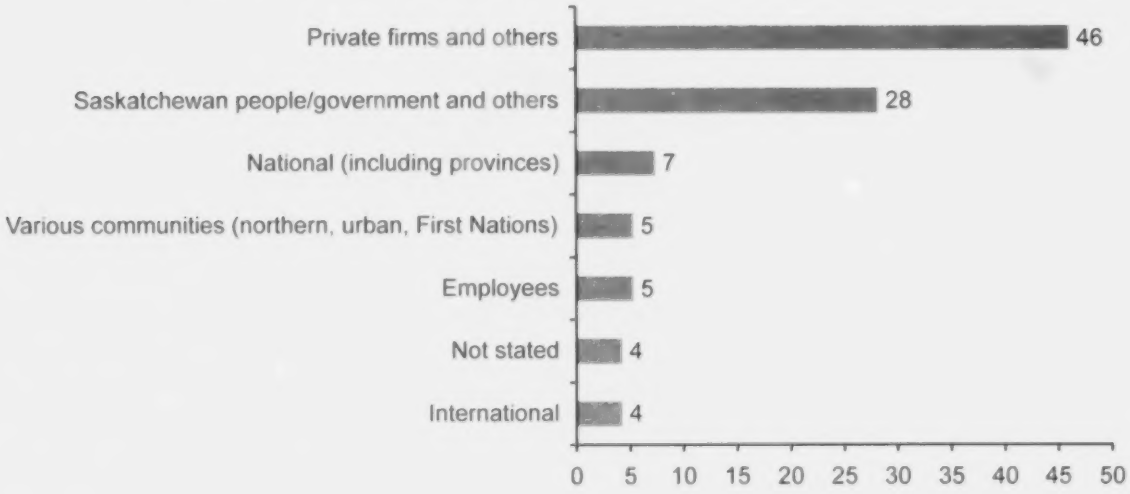


Region
Responses from North Battleford (75%, n=3), Saskatoon (64%, n=20), and La Ronge (50%, n=1) were more likely to cite benefits to uranium development, while responses from Yorkton (40%, n=2), Prince Albert (27%, n=3), and Swift Current (27%, n=3) were slightly more likely to talk about the benefits of uranium development as being large and widespread. Lloydminster (100%, n=1), Estevan (100%, n=1), Regina (53%, n=10), and Prince Albert (46%, n=5) responses were more likely to classify benefits as being relatively small, and located in one region or place. Responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1) and Swift Current (27%, n=3) were more likely than responses from the other regions to indicate that there are no benefits to uranium development.

Many of the benefits to uranium development proposed by people across the province, identified in Figure 28, related to the economic benefits associated with building and running a nuclear power facility, both for private firms (46%, n=44) and others, and for Saskatchewan people and/or government and others (28%, n=27). Other beneficiaries identified were national-level benefits, including provinces (7%, n=7), which would largely benefit from power generation, waste storage, and the potential production of medical isotopes as well as an increased power supply.

Various communities, including First Nations, rural, and Northern communities (5%, n=5); employees (5%, n=5); and international organizations/governments (4%, n=4) who would benefit from the work created through energy generation were all identified as potential beneficiaries of uranium development. However, there was some discussion about whether or not there might be more employment associated with renewable sources of energy production. Additionally, some responses suggested that the employment might also be more evenly distributed throughout the province, rather than being focused on one particular area.

Figure 28: Who Will Benefit from Uranium Development (% of responses)



Some pointed to nuclear power generation as better for the environment than current coal generation, which would be a clear benefit for the province and for the global ecosystem. They said that nuclear power generation has improved over the years. However, many did not agree on whether or not nuclear power could be considered environmentally friendly or "green" because of the impact on the environment of different parts of its lifecycle.

Region

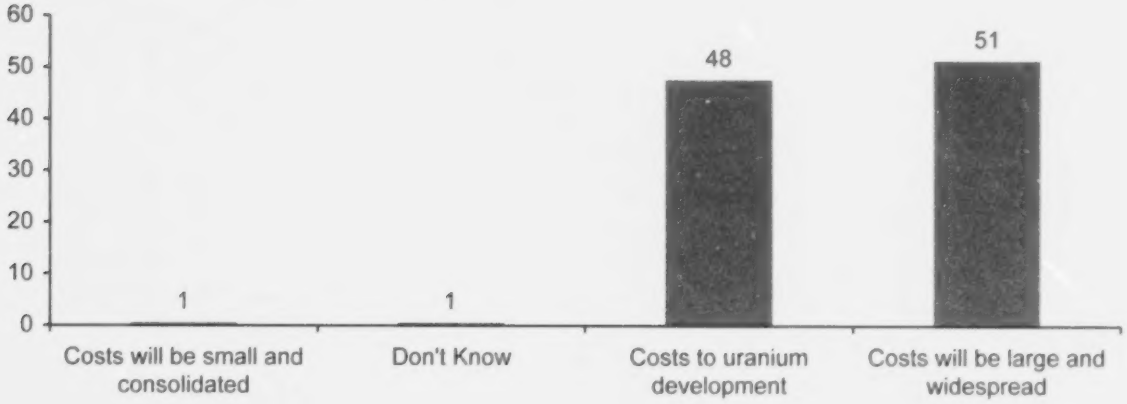
There were some observable regional differences between responses. Responses from Lloydminster (100%, n=1), Prince Albert (64%, n=7), and Regina (63%, n=12) were more likely than the other regions to point to private firms and others being the most likely beneficiaries of uranium development. On the other hand, those from La Ronge (50%, n=1), North Battleford (75%, n=3), Saskatoon (57%, n=17), and Swift Current (36%, n=4) were more likely to say that Saskatchewan people and others would benefit.

National level benefits, including those for the provinces, were more often identified in responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Yorkton (20%, n=2), and Estevan (100%, n=1), while those from Prince Albert (18%, n=2) and Swift Current (9%, n=1) were more likely to point to the benefits accrued by various communities. Last, Prince Albert and Swift Current (9%, n=1) responses were more likely to point to benefits for employees (18%, n=2) while those from Prince Albert (9%, n=1), Yorkton (40%, n=2) and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely than the others to point to international benefits.

4.3 Costs of Uranium Development

Over 350 responses included information about the costs of uranium development, as shown in Figure 29. Uranium development included everything from mining and exploration to power generation and waste storage. However, most responses focused primarily on power generation and waste storage. Just over half (51%, n=182) of these responses said that they expected the costs of uranium development to be large and widespread – affecting everyone in the province. Just under half (48%, n=169) of these responses focused on the general costs of uranium development. A small percentage (1%, n=2) indicated that costs would be small and consolidated – locating costs in particular industries or communities – whereas an equal percentage did not know about what the costs of uranium development may be (1%, n=2).

Figure 29: Costs of Uranium Development (% of responses)

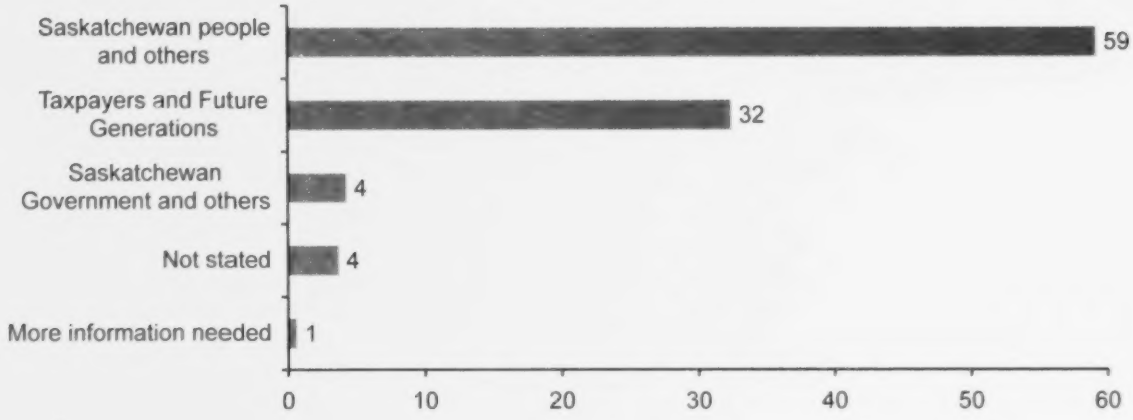


Region

Responses from La Ronge (100%, n=2), North Battleford (83%, n=5), Regina (83%, n=39), Swift Current (76%, n=16), Saskatoon (65%, n=33), and Yorkton (59%, n=10) were more likely than the other regions to talk about general costs associated with uranium development, while responses from Lloydminster (89%, n=93), Prince Albert (75%, n=42), and Estevan (60%, n=3) were more likely to consider costs to be large and widespread. Yorkton (12%, n=2) and Saskatoon (2%, n=1) were slightly more likely to talk about costs being small and consolidated.

Figure 30 makes clear that people are concerned about the costs of uranium development for Saskatchewan people and others, including future generations (59%, n=210). Over half of the responses addressing the costs of uranium development talk about the costs – social, health-related, economic – that Saskatchewan people would face, particularly if power generation or waste management were to become a reality in the province. Taxpayers and future generations of Saskatchewan people were the next largest group identified in the responses (32%, n=115), followed by the Saskatchewan government and others (4%, n=15). A small percentage of responses were looking for more information about the costs associated with uranium development (1%, n=2).

Figure 30: Reasons for the Costs of Uranium Development (% of responses)



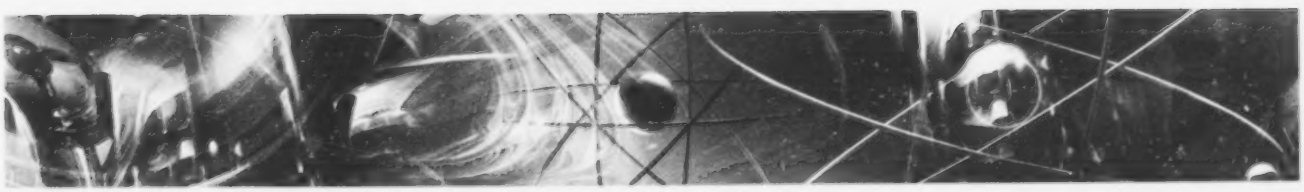
Region

There were apparent regional differences in the responses around the costs of uranium development. Responses from Lloydminster (92%, n=97), Prince Albert (70%, n=39), Swift Current (62%, n=13), and Estevan (60%, n=3) were more likely than those from La Ronge, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Regina to highlight the costs to Saskatchewan people and others. Those from La Ronge (50%, n=1), North Battleford (50%, n=3), Saskatoon (51%, n=26), Yorkton (35%, n=6), and Regina (47%, n=22) were more likely than the others to point to the costs incurred by both taxpayers and future generations, while responses from Saskatoon (12%, n-6), Yorkton (6%, n=1), and Regina (6%, n=3) were more likely to point to the costs incurred by the Saskatchewan government and others. Prince Albert (2%, n=1) and Yorkton (6%, n=1) responses were slightly more likely to indicate that more information was needed.

4.4 Summary

Clearly, the costs – and benefits – of uranium development were important to people participating in the public consultation process. While some identified benefits to uranium development, most spoke to concerns about costs – financial, and non-financial – which included financial costs for governments and for individuals including infrastructure costs; costs associated with environmental impacts, health and safety concerns; and training around uranium development. Social costs, like the increased cost of housing associated with the creation of a large-scale project like a nuclear reactor, were also raised. Opportunity costs – or the costs associated with pursuing one course of action, like building a nuclear reactor, at the expense of pursuing another course of action, like developing renewable sources of energy in the province, were often identified as an issue.

However, analysing costs and benefits means more to people than just financial costs. Many people said that it was necessary to balance interests when making a decision about how to move forward with Saskatchewan's energy needs: corporate versus individual interests, community versus corporate, and North versus South. A number of people argued that industry would be the primary beneficiary of uranium development. Many said that it would be necessary to weigh the costs and benefits of nuclear power when making a decision about what to do in the future. Others said that all types of power generation should be evaluated so that a better decision could be made.



Theme 5: Support for Alternative Energy Sources: Renewables

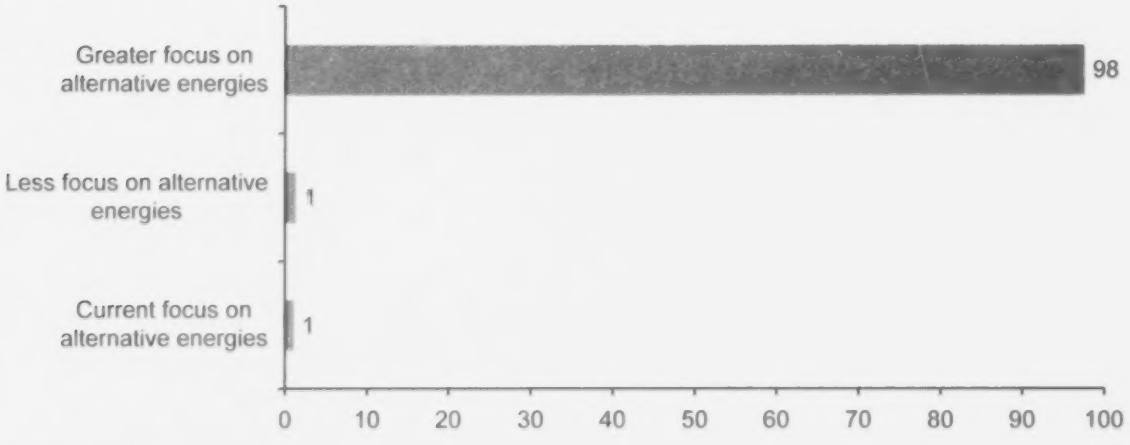
Noted earlier, much of the information provided by the public and by stakeholders focused on power generation. While many addressed issues around nuclear power, responses also discussed alternative sources of power. People spoke about alternative sources – particularly renewable sources – in a variety of ways. They distinguished between the two terms, using alternative sources to mean alternatives to Saskatchewan's current system of coal and other sources, and they used renewable to mean sources of energy that were not finite, including wind and solar power. Moreover, they discussed their preferred energy choices; they talked about the benefits of alternative energies; and they talked about why Saskatchewan should investigate going forward with alternative energies. Depending on their focus, these supportive responses were recorded differently.

5.1 Moving to Alternative Energy Sources

Nearly 500 responses dealt primarily with the need to move to alternative energies (see Figure 31). An overwhelming majority (98%, n=469) of these responses indicated that Saskatchewan should have a greater focus on alternative energies. A very small percentage of responses focused on the need to have a lesser focus on alternative energies (1%, n=6) or indicated that Saskatchewan should maintain its current focus (1%, n=5).

Region
Responses supporting a greater focus on alternative energies were consistent across the province. Responses from La Ronge (33%, n=1), Saskatoon (5%, n=4), Yorkton (6%, n=1) and Regina (1%, n=1) were more likely to say that there should be less focus on alternative energies, but the numbers were so small that these differences should be taken with caution.

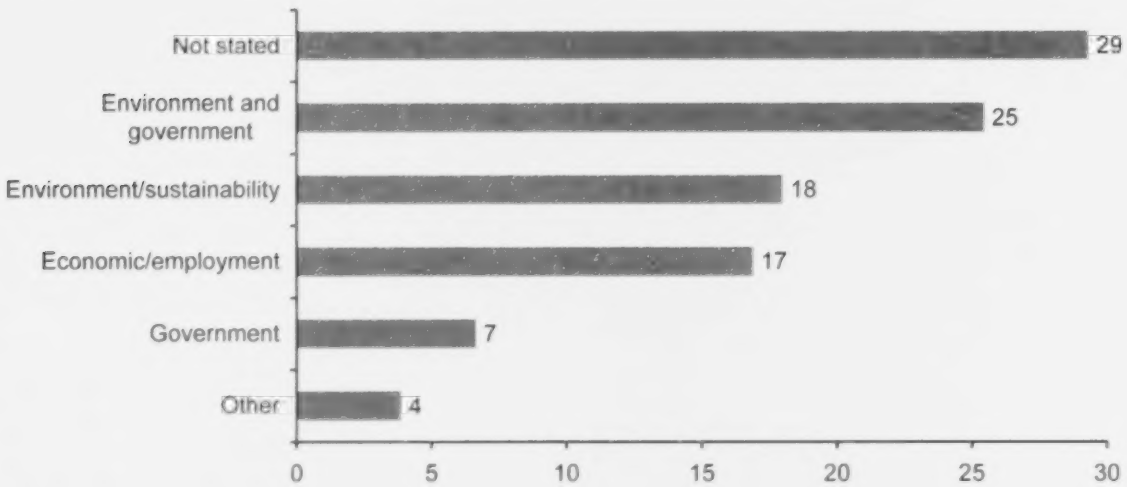
Figure 31: Focus on Alternative Energies (% of responses)



a. Why Greater Focus on Alternative Energies

Although nearly one-third of responses in favour of a greater focus on alternative energies did not indicate why they favoured this approach, over two-thirds of responses were generally linked to specific reasons (see Figure 32). Of those who wanted a greater focus on alternative energies, environmental/sustainability reasons were the most commonly identified. These environmental reasons included the link between climate change, global warming, and coal-fired energy production and the need to work with the environment through capturing sun and wind. Some said that burning coal has contributed to/caused climate change. People said that there are clean alternatives to coal. Many pointed to the value of both wind and solar power for a province like Saskatchewan, arguing that the hours of sun and wind the province receives makes Saskatchewan a great candidate for these types of energy generation. They also pointed to the need to ensure power generation is sustainable for the future.

Figure 32: Reasons for Supporting a Greater Focus on Alternative Energies (% of responses)



One-quarter (25%, n=119) identified environmental and government-related reasons together, meaning that it was important to ensure that government move forward in this direction and that government, rather than the private sector, remain the driver for alternative energies. Others talked about the need to minimize the cost to government while ensuring that government remain involved with energy production in the province. Another 18% (n=84) talked specifically about the magnitude of environmental and sustainability factors, particularly around the potential for Saskatchewan to benefit from both wind and solar power for the future.

Seventeen per cent (n=79) pointed to economic or employment reasons for focusing on alternative energies, including the economic benefits of developing the industry and the distribution of employment throughout the province. A smaller percentage (7%, n=31) focused specifically on governmental reasons. A final 4% (n=18) identified other reasons including the social benefits of alternative energies, while some also pointed out that they need more information about the potential of alternative energies for Saskatchewan, an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of various technologies, and about whether the government has been investigating other technologies for future use.

Region
There are observable differences among the regions in terms of why responses were in favour of expanding alternative energies. Reasons related to environment and government were more likely to be identified by Lloydminster (80%, n=87) and Prince Albert (37%, n=27). Those identifying environmental or sustainability reasons were more likely to be from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Prince Albert (20%, n=15), Saskatoon (26%, n=18), Yorkton (24%, n=4), Regina (21%, 19), Swift Current (26%, n=7), and Estevan (20%, n=1) than from Lloydminster or North Battleford.

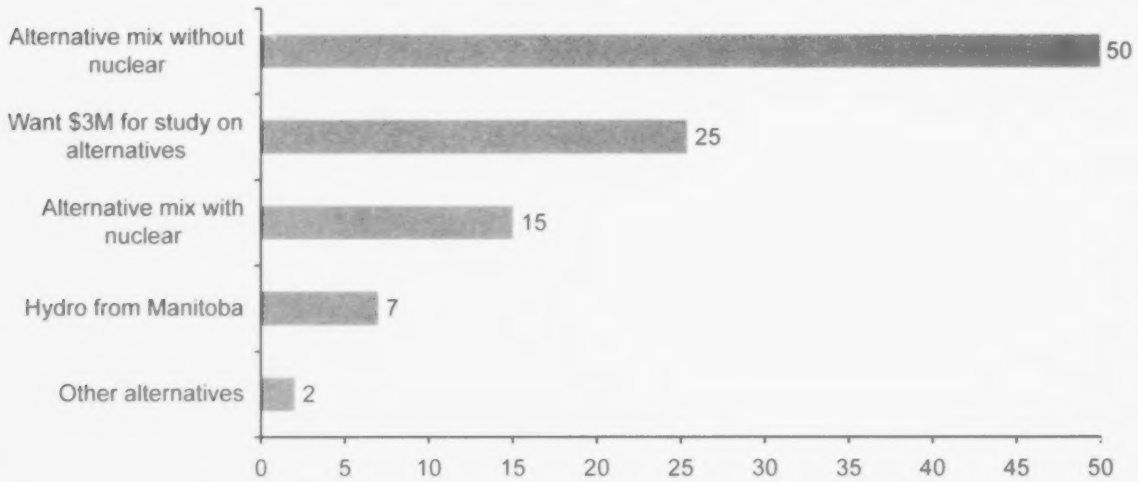
Economic reasons were more likely to come from North Battleford (33%, n=5), Saskatoon (19%, n=13), Yorkton (18%, n=3), Regina (22%, n=20), Swift Current (22%, n=6), and Estevan (40%, n=2) than in other regions. Government alone was more likely identified by La Ronge (50%, n=1), North Battleford (47%, n=7), Saskatoon (9%, n=6), and Regina (11%, n=10), while Saskatoon (9%, n=6), Yorkton (24%, n=4), and Swift Current (11%, n=3) were more likely to point to other reasons.

b. Why Current or Lesser Focus on Alternative Energies
A small percentage of responses focused on either pursuing the current approach to alternative energies (1%, n=5) or a lesser focus on alternative energies (1%, n=6). Those interested in pursuing the current approach, from Saskatoon, Regina, and Swift Current, focused on the unknowns of the alternative technologies and the economic benefits associated with pursuing the province's existing course. Responses from La Ronge, Saskatoon, and Regina addressing the need to focus less on alternative energies pointed to the same reasons: the unknowns of the alternative technologies and the economic benefits associated with the province's present course.

5.2 Future Energy Sources

Just over 200 responses focused specifically on where Saskatchewan should move in terms of future energy sources, as shown in Figure 33. Half (50%, n=101) said that Saskatchewan should pursue an alternative mix without nuclear power, which included many references to both wind and solar power. People expressing concerns about the current energy supply in Saskatchewan – and its reliance on coal for energy production – pointed to the need to explore other sources of energy as part of Saskatchewan's mix. It is important to note that people indicated a mix of alternatives, including wind, solar, bio mass, and others is necessary in order to meet Saskatchewan's future power needs.

Figure 33: Preferred Energy Choice (% of responses)



Research into alternative, renewable sources of energy was encouraged. Another one-quarter (25%, n=51) said that the same amount of money spent on the UDP Report should be spent on investigating renewable sources of energy for the province. A number of people pointed to the work that Saskatchewan could look to in terms of alternative sources such as the energy being generated or harnessed in Germany and in other countries. Fifteen per cent (n=31) indicated that an alternative mix including nuclear power should be considered, while another 7% (n=14) focused on Saskatchewan's ability to use hydro purchased from Manitoba. Other alternatives (2%, n=4) included continuing on with the current energy mix or pursuing clean coal.

In addition to the responses focusing on the need to further study alternative sources of energy for Saskatchewan, there were several votes from the floor at public meetings calling for further research. It was clear that there was a great deal of interest in pursuing additional research on alternative sources of energy.

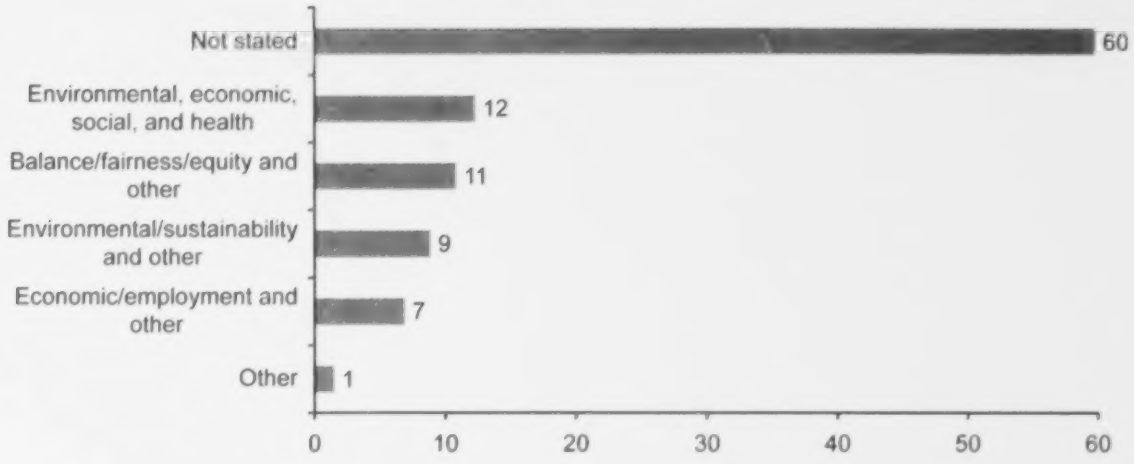
Region

Again, there were differences in regional responses. Lloydminster (75%, n=3), Regina (67%, n=44), and Swift Current (72%, n=21) were more likely to support an alternative mix without nuclear than those from LaRonge, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Estevan. La Ronge (100%, n=1), Prince Albert (56%, n=5), North Battleford (38%, n=5), and Yorkton (50%, n=6) responses were more likely than the others to want $3 million for a study on alternatives. Responses from Prince Albert (22%, n=2), North Battleford (50%, n=7), Saskatoon (18%, n=7), and Estevan (20%, n=1) were more likely than the others to point to an alternative mix including nuclear to meet Saskatchewan's future power needs. Hydro from Manitoba was more likely to be suggested in Prince Albert (11%, n=1), Saskatoon (8%, n=3), and Yorkton (8%, n=1) responses, while those from Yorkton (8%, n=1) and Estevan (20%, n=1) were more likely than the others to point to other alternatives.

There were a number of reasons identified for the preferred energy choices (see Figure 34). Although nearly two-thirds (60%, n=122) did not provide reasons for specified choices, responses emphasized environmental, economic, social, and health reasons (12%, n=25). These included references to the health impacts of uranium development compared with alternative energies, the prevalence of wind and sun available to Saskatchewan people, and the economic growth associated with new kinds of power generation. They also included comments about the environmental and economic benefits of nuclear power, particularly when combined with other forms of alternative power generation. Eleven per cent of responses (n=22) pointed to balance, fairness, and equity along with other reasons. These responses tended to emphasize the importance of focusing on alternative energies, as well as nuclear power, in order to go forward with a balanced power system for the province.

Also noted was the need to ensure environmental sustainability along with others (9%, n=18), including the need to acknowledge that not all forms of power generation can be sustained over the long-term. Economic/employment reasons (7%, n=14) included the benefits of both nuclear and alternative sources of power, as well as the costs associated with these different types. A number of responses pointed to the need to do further analysis around costs. Next came a combination of other reasons including social, health-related, and comments about the private sector and/or government involvement in alternative energy choices (1%, n=3).

Figure 34: Reasons for Preferred Energy Choice (% of responses)



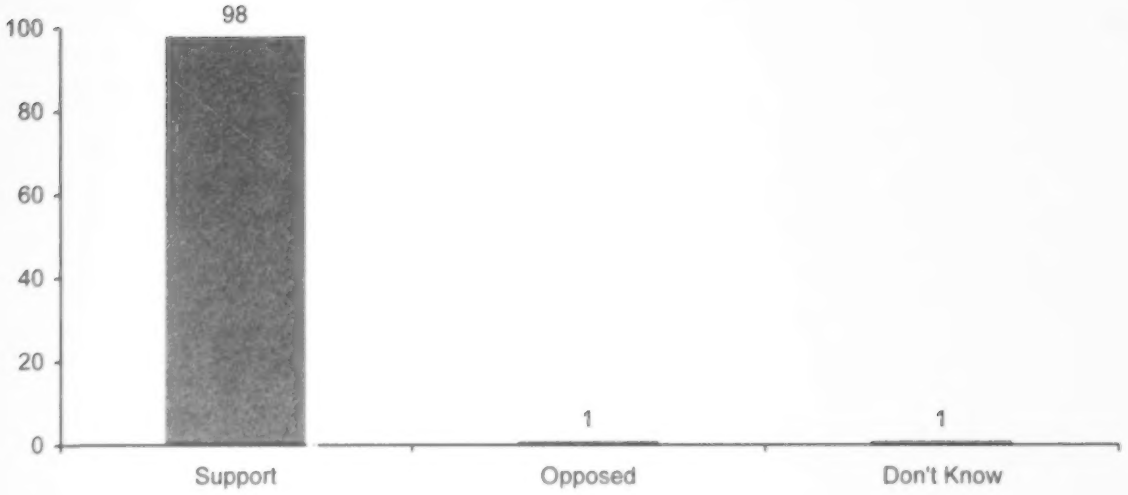
While many said that renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and bio mass were the answer to Saskatchewan's future energy needs, others pointed out that renewable sources also face challenges. They noted that there are limitations to both wind and solar power. They said that renewables like wind cannot fully address future power needs and should not be considered part of the base load for the province's needs. Some people said that Saskatchewan's energy infrastructure would need to be upgraded in order to accommodate alternative sources of power.

Region

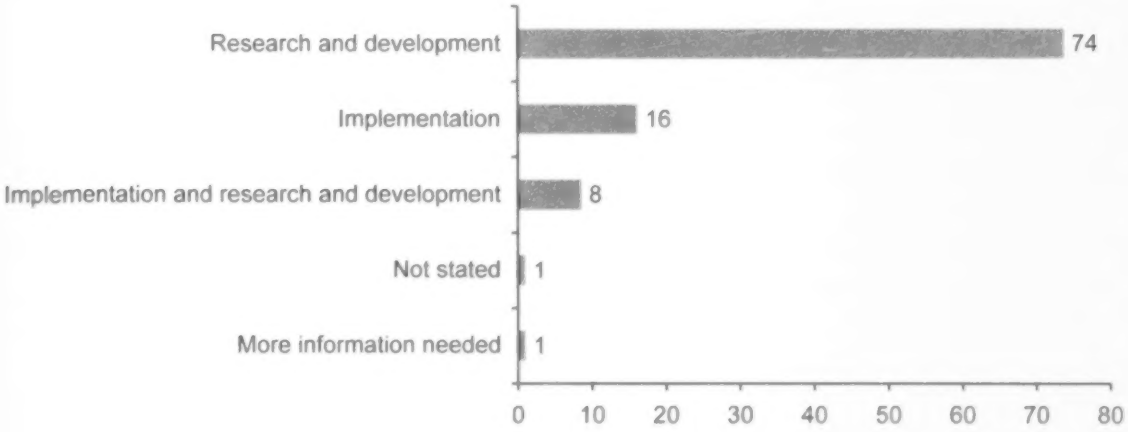
There were observable differences between the regions in terms of which renewable sources people prefer. Environment, economic, social, and health reasons were more likely to be noted by Lloydminster (50%, n=2), North Battleford (50%, n=7), Yorkton (17%, n=2), and Estevan (40%, n=2) than in La Ronge, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, or Swift Current. There was a greater percentage of responses from La Ronge (100%, n=1), North Battleford (29%, n=4), Saskatoon (18%, n=7), and Yorkton (33%, n=4) that pointed to reasons of balance, equity, and fairness, while those from Lloydminster (25%, n=1), Prince Albert (20%, n=2), and Swift Current (37%, n=11) were more likely to point to environmental sustainability and others. Economic/employment and other reasons were provided in a greater percentage of Prince Albert (10%, n=1), Yorkton (8%, n=1), Swift Current (13%, n=4), and Estevan (60%, n=3) responses than in the others. Responses from Saskatoon (5%, n=2) were more likely to point to other reasons for choosing which renewable sources of energy they would want to see.

5.3 Alternative Energy Technology

Over 100 of the responses from LaRonge, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, and Swift Current that focused on alternative energy technologies also spoke to support for the investigation and development of these technologies for Saskatchewan use. Nearly all (98%, n=104) responses addressing alternative energy technology were supportive of the technology (see Figure 35) for a number of reasons. Furthermore, a small number of responses from Lloydminster, Saskatoon, Regina, Swift Current did not know (1%, n=1) or were undecided (1%, n=1) about alternative energy technologies.



The reasons presented for alternative energy technologies varied; however, three-quarters of responses (74%, n=78) focused on the need for further research and development in this area, as shown in Figure 36. The next largest group of responses (16%, n=17) addressed issues around implementation, saying that alternative energy technologies could be – and should be – integrated into Saskatchewan's existing power system. People were interested in learning how they could use these technologies themselves as well as in their communities. Just under one in ten (8%, n=9) said that they favoured alternative energy technology, research and development, and implementation. The need for increased information on alternative energy technologies was also identified here.



Region
Responses from La Ronge (100%, n=1), Yorkton (100%, n=8), and Prince Albert (n=93%, n=13) were more likely to say that research and development was important for alternative energy technologies, while responses from Swift Current (25%, n=1), Regina (23%, n=6), Saskatoon (21%, n=4), and North Battleford (21%, n=3) were more likely to refer to implementation of alternative energy technology than responses from the other areas were. Finally, Lloydminster (33%, n=1), Swift Current (25%, n=1), and Regina (19%, n=5) responses were more likely to emphasize implementation and research and development than responses from the other regions.

5.4 Clean Coal Technology

A small number of responses from Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Swift Current, and Estevan dealt specifically with clean coal technology (n=10). Over half of these (60%, n=6) indicated that they supported clean coal technology, while 20% (n=2) were against it and 20% (n=2) were supportive of it. Responses indicated the need to implement clean coal – and some of the challenges that would entail (50%, n=5) – and the need for more research and development (40%, n=4). Furthermore, a very small percentage addressed the need for more information around these technologies (10%, n=1).

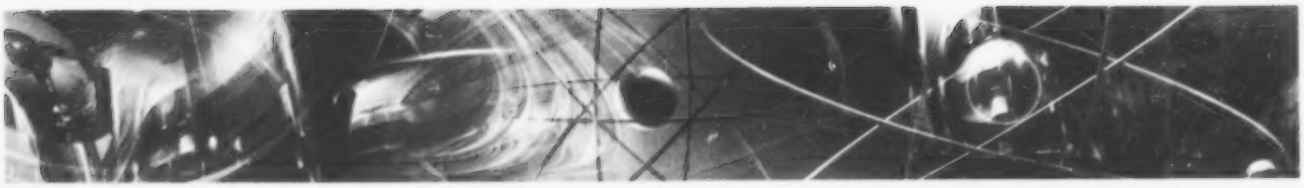
5.5 Summary

The vast majority of responses dealing with alternative energies – particularly around renewable energy sources – supported Saskatchewan moving to a greater focus on alternative energy sources, primarily because of environment benefits associated with alternatives. They also argued that if Saskatchewan moved toward renewable sources of energy, then economic impacts – including employment – would be spread throughout the province, rather than focused in one area like with a nuclear power plant.

Future energy sources identified throughout the consultation process tended to be an alternative mix without nuclear power. Much of the focus was on wind and solar, in combination with other renewable sources, but there were people who were interested in pursuing nuclear power in combination with other alternatives. A large portion of people wanted Saskatchewan to go ahead with a study on renewable sources of energy, funded to the same level as the UPD.

Alternative energy technologies were highlighted as a significant area of study for the province. A small number of responses focused on clean coal technology, again pointing to the need for more research and development in this area.

Overall, there was much support for further research and development and the implementation of alternative energy sources – particularly renewable ones.



Theme 6: Concerns about the UDP Report

The Uranium Development Partnership was tasked to focus on the economic potential of uranium development in the province. During the public consultation process, responses from across the province spoke not only to the content of the report, but also provided feedback on the UDP Report, the composition of the partnership itself, and the quality and quantity of the information the report provided. In total, 604 responses addressed varying elements of the UDP Report.

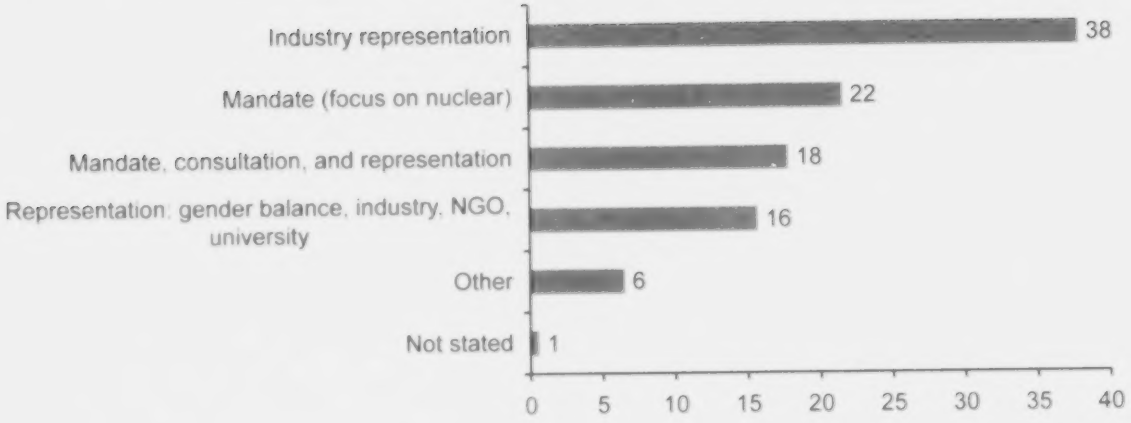
6.1 UDP Report: Composition of the Partnership

Just below 200 responses from all regions of the province commented on the process leading to the UDP Report, including the composition of the partnership itself (see Figure 37). Of those responses, virtually all (99%, n=185) said that they were concerned with the process, including the partnership itself and the report. A very small number (1%, n=2) of responses spoke favourably of the UDP report and the partnership.

The two most common concerns about the UDP report and partnership surrounded the membership and the mandate of the partnership. Over one-third (38%, n=70) indicated that they had concerns with the membership of the UDP, particularly that the membership was "stacked" to reflect a business/industry-focused approach to the uranium industry in the province. The mandate of the panel was discussed on its own in 22% (n=40) of the responses. Some people argued that the UDP Report was biased because it focused solely on the role of nuclear power for the province, rather than exploring a wide array of different power sources.

Representation or membership and the mandate of the partnership were identified together in 18% (n=33) of responses. Responses regarding representation often included discussion of a number of different groups of people who were perceived to be absent from the partnership (16%, n=29). Some pointed out that the UDP did not include any women. Others stated that the environmentalist represented on the Committee was not a "true" environmentalist. Still, others noted that there was a conflict of interest for the Chair of the partnership, as a senior executive at the University of Saskatchewan. Many said that they did not trust the report – or the partnership – at all (included in other, 6%, n=12). Finally, concerned responses addressed the lack of consultation undertaken by the partnership, reported here in conjunction with concerns about representation and mandate (18%, n=33).

Figure 37: UDP Process: Concerns about the Partnership and Report (% of responses)



Region
Variations in how responses from different regions assessed their concerns about the partnership and report were present. Industry representation was discussed in greater proportions by responses from Prince Albert (70%, n=14), Saskatoon (42%, n=19), Yorkton (50%, n=3), Regina (41%, n=20), and Estevan (43%, n=3) than those from Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Swift Current, and the Athabasca Basin.

Mandate was an issue for a greater percentage of the responses from La Ronge (43%, n=3), North Battleford (56%, n=10), and Swift Current (38%, n=3), while a combination of mandate, consultation, and representation was more likely to be highlighted in responses from La Ronge (43%, n=3), Lloydminster (43%, n=3), and Saskatoon (27%, n=12). In addition, responses from Yorkton (17%, n=1), Regina (22%, n=11), Swift Current (50%, n=4), and Estevan (29%, n=2) were more likely than the others to highlight the importance of representation, while responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=1), Lloydminster (29%, n=2), Yorkton (17%, n=1), and the Athabasca Basin (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to other factors that explained their concerns about the partnership and report.

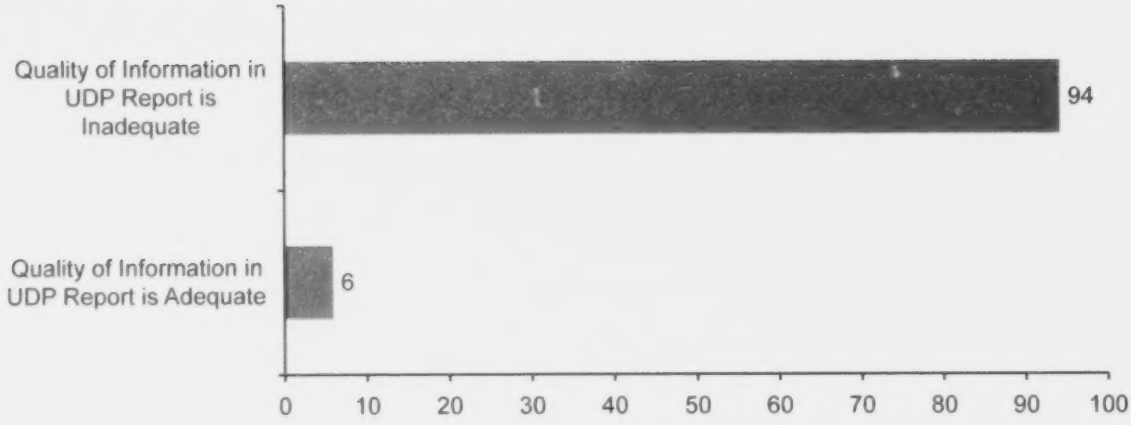
6.2 UDP Report: Access, Quality, and Quantity of Information

In line with its mandate, the UDP's Report addressed particular questions about the business case, or the economic value, that could be found in the uranium value chain. Responses from across the province dealt with access to the information contained within the report and the quality and the quantity of that information regarding uranium, the uranium industry, and alternative energy sources.

a. Access to the UDP Report
To begin with, some responses (n=18) said that there was difficulty accessing the UDP Report. Of these responses, over half (53%, n=10) reported having difficulty understanding the information in the report; one-third (32%, n=6) emphasized the need to have better access to experts; and 11% (n=2) wanted greater access to written information referred to in the report, including having better references to allow people to follow up on the information provided.

b. Quality of Information in the UDP Report
Over 150 responses dealt with the quality of information provided in the UDP report. A large majority – 94% (n=144) – said that the information in the UDP report was not adequate (see Figure 38). Just over five percent (6%, n=9) said that the information was adequate.

Figure 38: Quality of Information in UDP Report (% of responses)

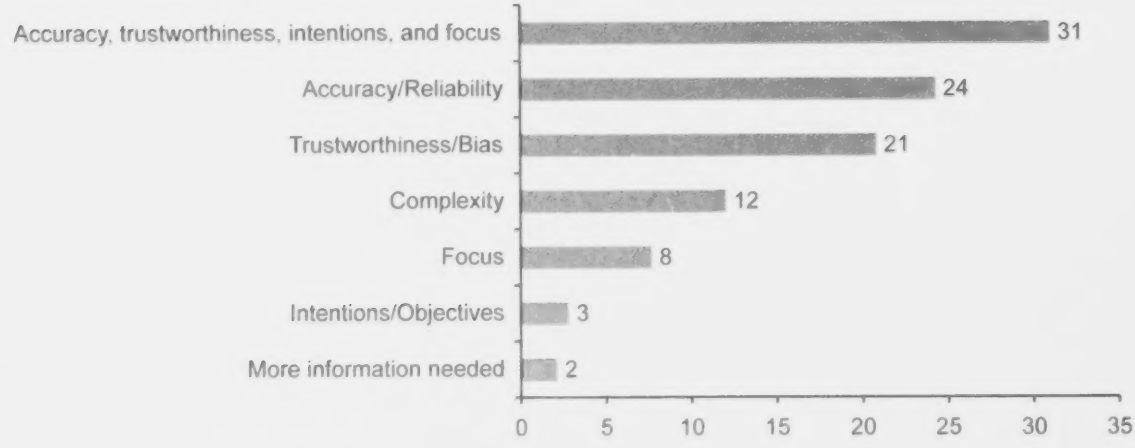


Region

Responses from Regina (91%, n=32), Swift Current (90%, n=9), and La Ronge (50%, n=1), were slightly less likely than responses from the other regions in indicating that the quality of information in the UDP report was inadequate.

For those responses that deemed the quality of the information provided in the report overall as inadequate (n=144), there were a number of particular issues that were highlighted (see Figure 39). Nearly one-third (31%, n=44) of responses included issues of accuracy, trustworthiness, intentions of the panel (and of government), and criticisms of the focus of the report – saying that it should have included more kinds of energy sources than just nuclear power. One-quarter (24%, n=35) spoke of accuracy and the reliability of the information in the report. Another 21% (n=30) addressed issues of trustworthiness and bias in the information. Complexity of the information contained in the report (12%, n=17), the focus of the UDP's work (8%, n=11), intentions (3%, n=4), and the need for more information (2%, n=3) were all identified in various responses.

Figure 39: Issues with Quality of Information in UDP Report (% of responses)



Nearly one-third (31%, n=44) of responses indicating that the quality of information generally was inadequate in the UDP Report said that they had problems with accuracy, trustworthiness, intentions, and the focus of the information. One-quarter (24%, n=35) focused on the accuracy of the information, while another nearly one-quarter (21%, n=30) pointed to the lack of trustworthiness or presence of bias in the information. Twelve per cent (n=17) indicated that the information was too complex, and that an additional 8% (n=11) pointed to the focus of the report as being problematic. A small group (3%, n=4) indicated that the intentions of the report were a problem, while 2% (n=3) said that they required more information.

Region

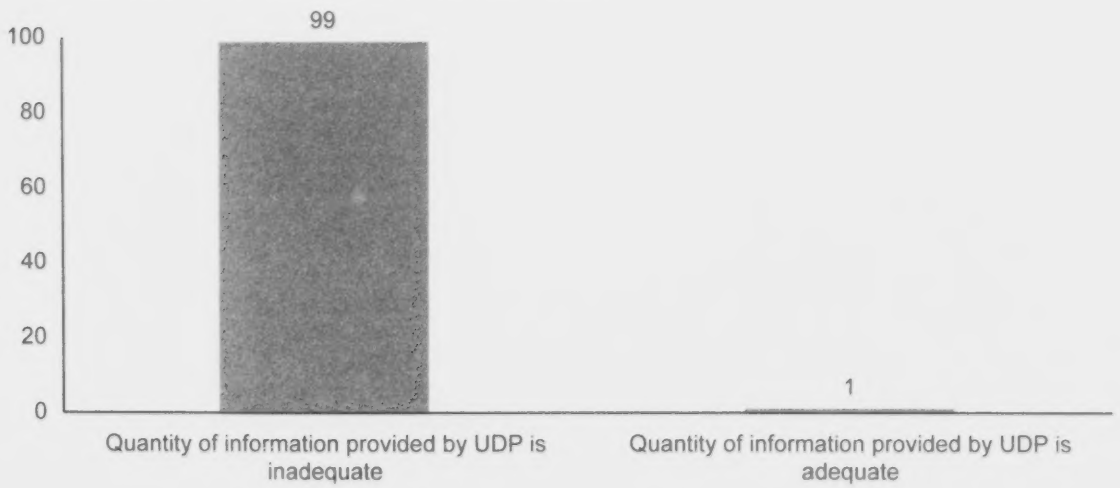
There were differences among responses from the various regions as well. Accuracy, trustworthiness, intentions, and focus as a group were more likely to be identified in responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=1), La Ronge (50%, n=1), Regina (43%, n=15), and Estevan (40%, n=2), while accuracy and reliability were more likely to be presented in responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Prince Albert (33%, n=8), and Saskatoon (29%, n=1) than in the other regions. Trustworthiness was more likely to be identified in responses from Lloydminster (50%, n=1), North Battleford (100%, n=2), Regina (23%, n=8), Swift Current (60%, n=6), and Estevan (40%, n=2), while complexity was more likely to be part of the concerns expressed in responses from Prince Albert (17%, n=4) and Yorkton (36%, n=4).

Responses from Lloydminster (50%, n=1), Saskatoon (11%, n=4), and Yorkton (9%, n=1) were more likely to point to the focus of the information when criticizing its quality, while Saskatoon (6%, n=2), Yorkton (9%, n=1), and Swift Current (20%, n=2) responses were more likely to point to the intentions behind the information. Finally, the need for more information was identified most often in responses from Prince Albert (4%, n=1) and Saskatoon (6%, n=2).

c. Quantity of Information in the UDP Report

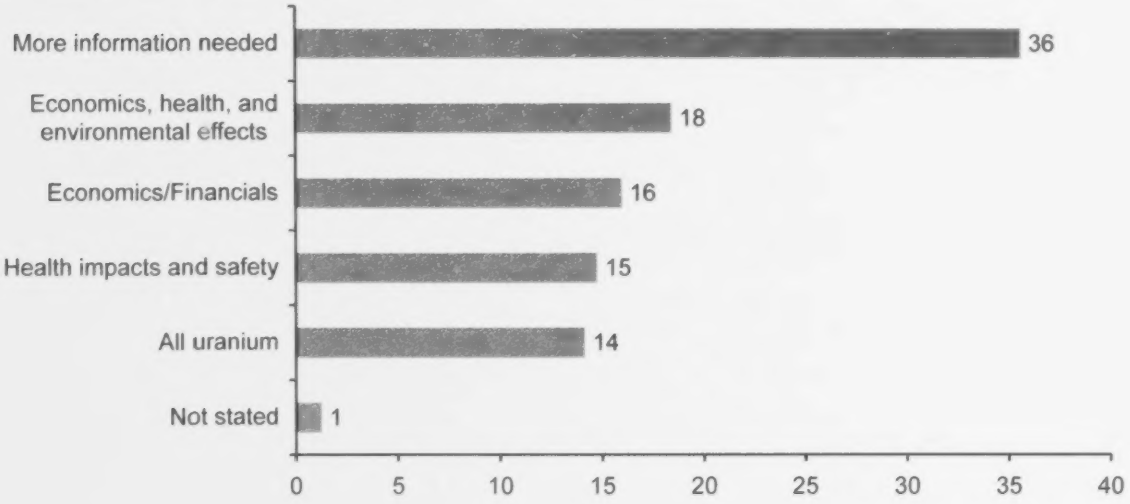
A total of 163 responses from all regions, with the exception of Buffalo Narrows, addressed whether or not there was enough information in the UDP Report overall. Of those, almost all (99%, n=161) said that the UDP report did not provide enough information, while 1% said that the amount of information was adequate (Figure 40).

Figure 40: Quantity of Information in the UDP Report



Over one-third (36%, n=58) of those indicating that the amount of information in the UDP Report was inadequate spoke to the need for more information in general, as shown in Figure 41. Eighteen per cent (n=30) said that they needed more information on the economic, health, and environmental impacts of uranium throughout the uranium life cycle. Another 16% (n=26) pointed to the need for more information on the economics and costs of uranium throughout its life cycle, and 14% (n=24) wanted more information on uranium in general. Nearly the same percentage (15%, n=23) pointed to the need for more information on health impacts and safety issues related to uranium throughout its life cycle.

Figure 41: Quantity of Information in the UDP Report: What is Missing (% of responses)



Region

There were some differences in responses by region. Responses from La Ronge (33%, n=1), Yorkton (33%, n=2), Regina (18%, n=7), and Swift Current (50%, n=3) were more likely to say that economic or financial information was missing from the UDP Report. Responses from Prince Albert (31%, n=4), Saskatoon (16%, n=5), Regina (15%, n=6), Estevan (100%, n=1), and the Athabasca Basin (17%, n=1) were more likely to refer to information on health impacts and safety. North Battleford (53%, n=10) and Regina (18%, n=7) responses were more likely to want more information on uranium in general.

Responses from La Ronge (33%, n=1), Prince Albert (23%, n=3), Saskatoon (23%, n=7), and Swift Current (33%, n=2) were more likely to want more information on a combination of economics, health, and environmental impacts of uranium throughout its life cycle. Last, responses from Lloydminster (73%, n=11), Prince Albert, North Battleford (32%, n=6), Swift Current (17%, n=1), Regina (18%, n=7), and the Athabasca Basin (67%, n=4) were more likely to want more information about uranium in general.

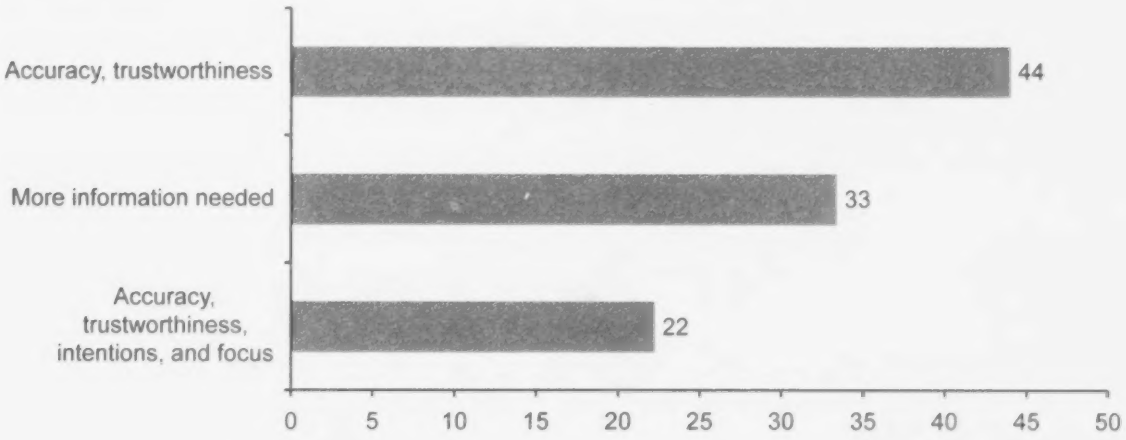
6.3 Information on Alternatives in UDP Report: Access, Quality, and Quantity

While the mandate of the UDP was to focus on the potential business case for the uranium value chain, many responses focused on what they would have liked to see in the UDP Report around other uranium-related issues. The comments they made were largely focused on information needs – what was missing, according to them, in the UDP process and final report.

a. Access to Information on Alternative Energy Sources
Some responses stated that it was difficult to access information on alternatives within the UDP Report process (n=7), and that they would have liked additional written information on alternative energy supplies (43%, n=3) or better access to experts in the area (57%, n=4).

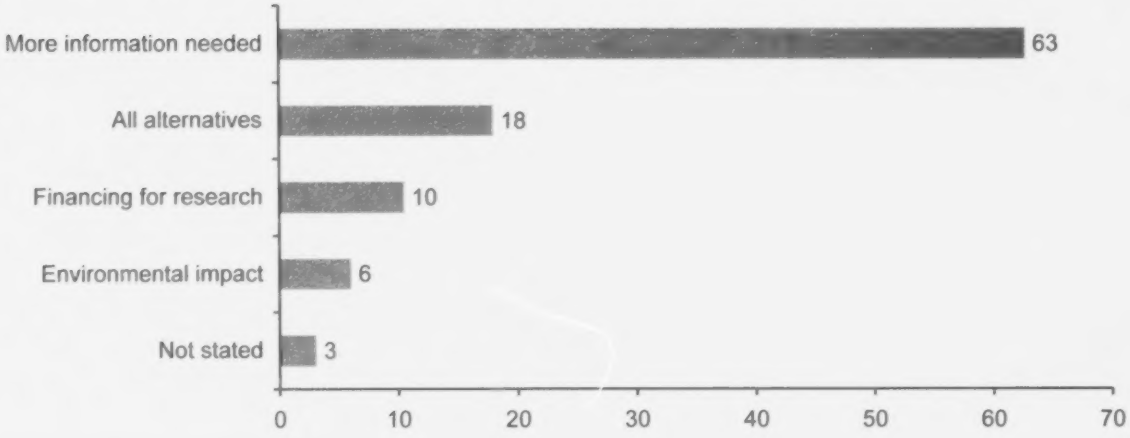
b. Quality of Information on Alternative Energy Sources
A small number of responses (n=9) from LaRonge, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, and Estevan spoke directly to the need for better quality information on alternative energy sources in the UDP Report. As seen in Figure 42, nearly half (44%, n=4) of these focused on perceived accuracy of the information provided, while one-third (33%, n=3) said that they needed more information. In addition, just under one-quarter (22%, n=2) pointed to accuracy, trustworthiness, intentions, and focus – a combination of criticisms of the information itself (or lack thereof) and of the UDP's focus and intent in producing the final report.

Figure 42: Need for Better Quality Information on Alternative Energy Sources in UDP Report (% of responses)



c. Quantity of Information on Alternative Energy Sources
The quantity of information provided in the UDP Report on alternative energy sources was identified as an issue in 67 responses. Of these, nearly two-thirds (63%, n=42) pointed to the need for more information in the UDP Report on alternative energy sources, as shown in Figure 43. Eighteen per cent (n=12) wanted to see more information on all alternative sources of energy in the report. Another 10% (n=7) wanted more financing for research into alternatives, while 6% (n=4) wanted to see more information on environmental impacts of alternatives discussed in the UDP Report.

Figure 43: Quantity of Information on Alternative Sources of Energy in the UDP Report: What Should Have Been Included (% of responses)



Region

Responses from Lloydminster (8%, n=1) and Prince Albert (50%, n=3) were more likely to want more information on the environmental impacts of uranium development, while those from Estevan (100%, n=1) and Regina (26%, n=5) were more likely to point to the need for information on all alternative sources of energy. Responses from Lloydminster (15%, n=2) and Saskatoon (18%, n=3) pointed to more financing for research, while in Lloydminster (69%, n=9), North Battleford (89%, n=8) and Regina (63%, n=12), responses were more likely to want more information overall.

6.4 Summary

The UDP was mandated to investigate the economic possibilities for uranium development in the province. Throughout the consultation process, many people expressed concerns about the UDP Report, including the composition of the partnership that researched and wrote the report. Their concerns around partnership representation included the role of industry and the lack of representation from women and environmental groups. They were also concerned about the contents of the report, the mandate of the partnership, and the influence that the report may have on government.

People were also concerned about the kind of information contained within the report: many wanted more and different information about uranium development, including the health, social, and environmental consequences; others wanted information about alternative sources of energy as well. Moreover, others wanted more information about Saskatchewan's situation and where energy conservation might fit within the calculations of Saskatchewan's future power needs.

Concerns were expressed about the access to the kind of information they wanted, as well as the quantity and quality of information – both about the uranium industry and about alternative sources of energy.

Throughout the public consultation process, many noted that the focus of the UDP Report was not ideal – arguing that the report should have included additional research and information on renewable sources of energy for the province.

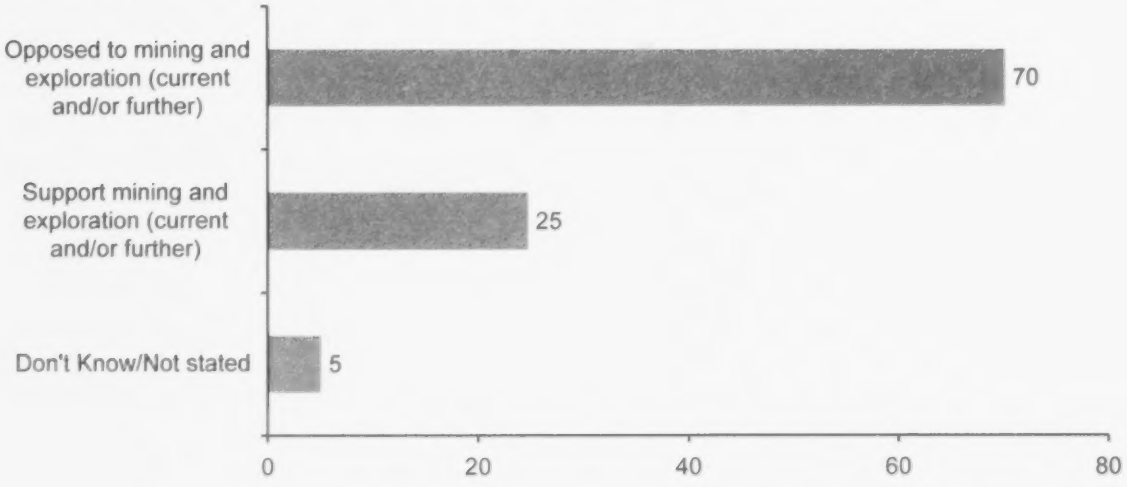
Overall, many people participating in the public consultation process were concerned about the process leading up to the UDP Report and its role as the focus for the consultation process.

Theme 7: Exploration and Mining

7.1 Exploration and Mining in Saskatchewan

There were 519 responses that dealt specifically with the province's approach to the exploration and mining of uranium. Nearly three-quarters (70%, n=364) were against the exploration and mining of uranium, while one-quarter (25%, n=128) were supportive (see Figure 44). An additional 5% (n=27) either did not know and wanted more information, or did not state whether they were opposed or supportive.

Figure 44: Exploration and Mining of Uranium in Saskatchewan (% of responses)



Region

There were regional differences when it came to opposition to or support for exploration and mining. Responses from Lloydminster (85%, n=23), Prince Albert (73%, n=45), North Battleford (71%, n=20), Regina (74%, n=89), Swift Current (86%, n=12), Estevan (83%, n=5), and the Athabasca Basin (75%, n=6) were more likely to be against mining and exploration than those from Buffalo Narrows (40%, n=2), La Ronge (58%, n=7), Saskatoon (60%, n=83), and Yorkton (58%, n=15). Responses from Buffalo Narrows (60%, n=3), La Ronge (42%, n=5), Saskatoon (34%, n=47), and Yorkton (31%, n=8) were more likely than responses from the other regions to support mining and exploration. Those from Prince Albert (6%, n=4), North Battleford (7%, n=2), Saskatoon (6%, n=9), Yorkton (12%, n=3), and the Athabasca Basin (25%, n=2) were more likely to say that they needed more information about mining and exploration in order to make a decision.

More specifically, in terms of those opposed to exploration and mining, most (41%, n=215) said that they were opposed to any further expansion of exploration and mining of uranium, as shown in Figure 45. The next largest group (19%, n=97) simply said that they were opposed to exploration and mining of uranium in any form. They said that the exploration and mining of uranium should be stopped altogether. Some referred to royalty structures, voicing their opposition to any incentives – including more favourable royalty structures for industry – as well as their opposition to mining and exploration (10%, n=52).

Figure 45: Detailed Support for and Opposition to Exploration and Mining of Uranium in Saskatchewan (% of responses)

Sixteen per cent (n=84) of responses favoured all further mining and exploration, while 6% (n=29) favoured expansion with incentives from government – many in the form of a revised royalty system. A small percentage (3%, n=15) favoured expansion of exploration and mining, but without additional government incentives for industry.

Most of the responses favouring the expansion of uranium exploration and mining simply said that they supported that action (16%, n=84). Some argued that exploration and mining simply cannot be stopped; however, it should be better managed. Some said that exploration and mining should be expanded, but people were divided on whether or not the government should provide financial incentives to industry in order to support this expansion. Slightly more responses indicated that there should be incentives (6%, n=29) rather than no incentives (3%, n=15). Many noted that general exploration and mining are positive contributors to Saskatchewan's economy and society.

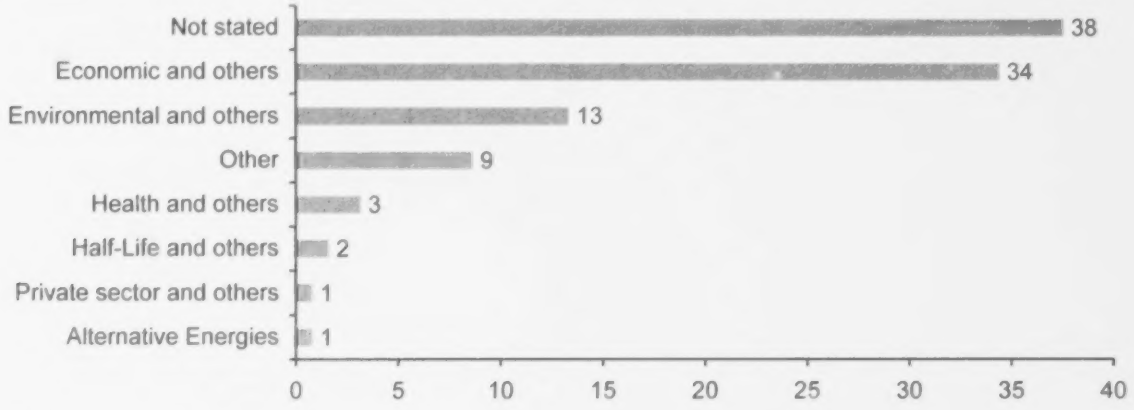
Some responses focused on needing more information. The UDP report only focused on the issues related to uranium in the province, as the government tasked the UDP members to do. However, some people in the province felt that there needed to be a wider discussion of mining not solely focused on uranium.

a. Support for Mining and Exploration

Many responses (n=128) favoured supporting the mining and exploration of uranium (see Figure 46). While over one-third (38%, n=48) did not provide any explanation for their support, one-third (34%, n=44) said that economic reasons, along with others, would help to explain their support. The economic benefits associated with opening up the mining and exploration of uranium include benefits for individual workers and host communities as well as for private industry and government taxation and royalties. Environmental and other reasons were identified in 13% of responses, focusing on the benefits of moving away from mining fossil fuels that produce greenhouse gases when used to generate power.

Other reasons to support mining and exploration were identified by 9% (n=11) of responses and included social benefits, such as expanded communities. Health and other issues – and the lack of concern about potential health and safety issues – arose in 3% (n=4) of these responses. A small percentage of responses included references to uranium's half-life (2%, n=2) and how it can be managed throughout the nuclear life cycle, positive references to the private sector (1%, n=1) and how the private sector can work in this area and provide benefits for society, and finally, how exploration and mining can actually support the development of alternative energies, such as nuclear power (1%, n=1).

Figure 46: Reasons for Supporting Mining and Exploration (% of responses)



Region

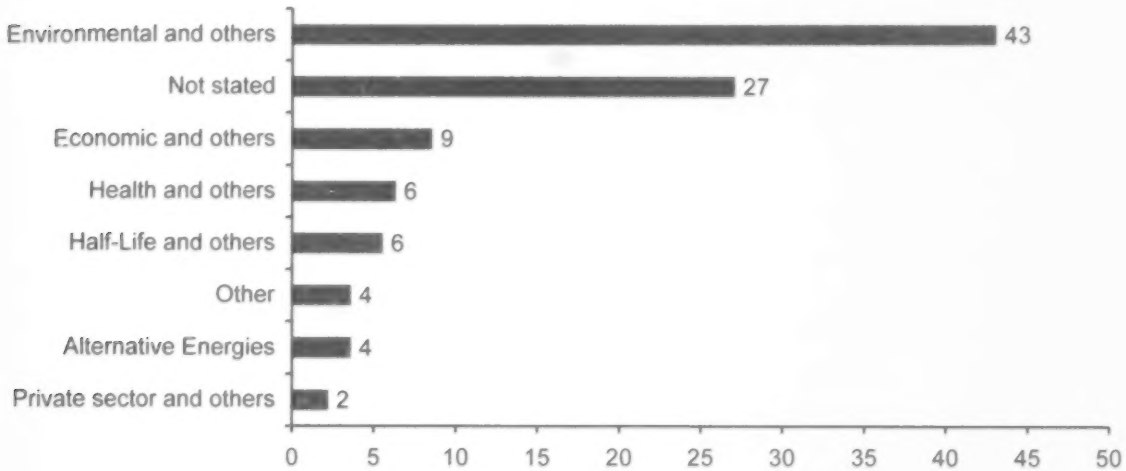
Support for mining and exploration varied across regions. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (67%, n=2), La Ronge (60%, n=3), Lloydminster (67%, n=2), North Battleford (50%, n=3), Yorkton (63%, n=5), and Swift Current (50%, n=1) were more likely than those from Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, or Estevan to point to the importance of economic and other factors when supporting mining and exploration. Those from Lloydminster (33%, n=1), Prince Albert (23%, n=3), and Saskatoon (21%, n=10) were more likely than others to point to environmental and other factors, while responses from La Ronge (20%, n=1), Saskatoon (11%, n=5), and Yorkton (25%, n=2) were more likely to refer to other factors.

Health and others were more frequently identified in responses from Buffalo Narrows (33%, n=1) and Saskatoon (6%, n=3) as reasons for supporting mining and exploration, while responses from Saskatoon (4%, n=2) were more likely to point to uranium's half-life. In this context, references to alternative energies came only from Regina.

b. Opposition to Mining and Exploration

Of the 70% of responses that were against uranium exploration and mining in Saskatchewan, most spoke first of environmental concerns. Nearly half (43%, n=156) pointed to a combination of environmental and other issues related to exploration and mining. They spoke to the environmental degradation associated with mining as well as the long-term challenges associated with getting the land back to the way it was before mining began. Many argued that mining and exploration were problematic because the uranium should stay in the ground: if it were taken out of the ground, it would be used for something they would not want to see happen.

Figure 47: Reasons for Opposing Mining and Exploration (% of responses)



Economic and other issues associated with mining and exploration were raised in 9% (n=31) of responses. These issues included concerns about the costs of mining and exploration that would be accrued to government through incentives, but also in the instability of resource economies that rely on volatile resource pricing. Another 6% (n=23) of responses pointed to health and other issues, including a discussion of mining-related illnesses workers would be exposed to. Uranium's long half-life was identified as a concern for 6% (n=20) of responses, referring to the length of time that people would have to deal with the uranium once it leaves the ground.

Other issues – including social or education related factors, around the need for more information, and around nuclear proliferation – were raised in 4% (n=13) of responses. The need to explore alternative energies instead of mining non-renewable resources appeared in 4% (n=13) of responses. Finally, 2% (n=8) pointed to the role of the private sector and others in exploration and mining, arguing that there needs to be a balance between the gains of the private sector and the incentives provided by the government in supporting the mining and exploration sector.

Region

There were some observable regional differences about how the responses explained their opposition to uranium exploration and mining. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=2), La Ronge (57%, n=4), Prince Albert (51%, n=23), North Battleford (45%, n=9), Regina (53%, n=47), Swift Current (73%, n=8), and Estevan (60%, n=3) were more likely than the other regions to specify environmental and other reasons for their opposition, while those from La Ronge (14%, n=1), Lloydminster (22%, n=5), North Battleford (10%, n=2), and the Athabasca Basin (33%, n=1) were more likely to point to economic and other issues. Health-related issues were more likely to be part of responses from North Battleford (10%, n=2) and Yorkton (13%, n=2), while concerns around uranium's half-life were more likely to be raised in responses from Prince Albert (13%, n=6) and Swift Current (9%, n=1).

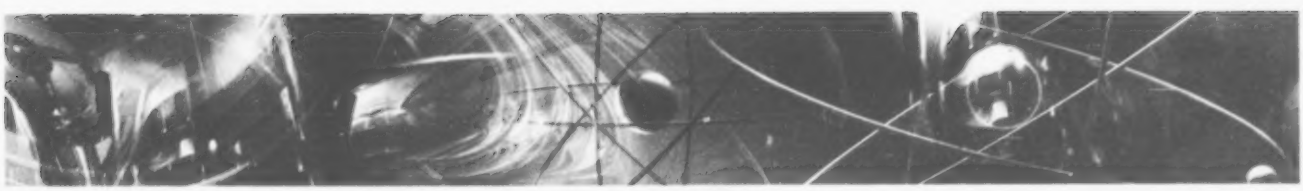
Other issues were more likely to be raised in responses from Lloydminster (4%, n=1), Prince Albert (4%, n=2), Yorkton (13%, n=2), and in the Athabasca Basin (33%, n=2), while alternative energies were more often raised as part of responses from Lloydminster (9%, n=2), Prince Albert (4%, n=2), Saskatoon (6%, n=5), and Yorkton (7%, n=1). Finally, responses from La Ronge (14%, n=1), North Battleford (5%, n=1), and Yorkton (7%, n=1) were more likely than the other regions to point to concerns about the private sector and others.

7.2 Summary

The majority of responses dealing with the exploration and mining of uranium in the province did not support current or future activities in this area. They expressed concerns about environmental impacts related to mining and the costs for government associated with subsidizing the industry through the royalty arrangements. Many were concerned about health and safety impacts for workers, for communities, and for future generations.

However, one-quarter of responses dealing with the exploration and mining of supported current or future activities in exploration and mining, with or without additional government incentives. These responses focused on the economic benefits of expanding the mining and exploration industry and the environmental benefits of switching to uranium-powered energy instead of coal-fired power plants.

Overall, though, the majority of people participating in the consultation process did not support future expansion of uranium exploration and mining, while many were also opposed to current mining and exploration.



Theme 8: Need for Information

Throughout the consultation process, people identified many different information needs. Information needs related to the main themes, to the additional themes, and around the information presented by pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear groups. Each is relayed in this section.

8.1 Information Related to the Main Themes

One of the most pressing needs identified by Saskatchewan people through the consultation process was the need for additional and better information related to all elements of the nuclear cycle. Many people said that they need more information about power altogether – not just about nuclear power.

Throughout the findings section so far, I have identified that every issue people raised had an informational component to it. In many cases, people wanted more information to clarify an issue related to power generation.

In terms of nuclear power, people wanted to know about the risks and benefits – both of nuclear power generation and waste management. They wanted to know more about the environmental consequences of nuclear power. People were curious about what government will do to educate them about power and when their questions will be answered. Many were concerned about the information available about nuclear power and uranium more generally, and at all five stages of the uranium cycle. They desired to know why other jurisdictions were moving away from uranium-supplied power and toward alternatives like wind and solar. Others questioned why Saskatchewan had taken so long to think seriously about nuclear power, since it would contribute to economic growth through employment and other factors.

While a large group of responses favoured moving toward alternative sources of power, there were many questions associated with alternatives as well. People wanted more detail about how sources of power like wind and solar worked, and whether or not they could be used as part of the baseload of power for the province. They questioned why the government was not investing in a study on alternatives or renewable, as they had with uranium. They asked what kind of infrastructure investment would be necessary for the province to incorporate alternatives into the energy mix, and why Saskatchewan could not lead the way in this type of power production.

They had questions about costs and benefits of uranium –particularly around power and waste management – and who would incur such costs. They did not consider costs as being purely financial, instead they asked about the costs to future generations of Saskatchewan people. They asked questions about the costs associated with environmental degradation, threats to prairie agriculture, and threats to health – both of individuals and of communities. They wanted to know about the information provided by both pro and anti-nuclear groups, and whether or not they could trust various experts who spoke and wrote about health and environmental issues.

People had questions about mining and exploration, and what the continuation and possible expansion of mining would mean for Saskatchewan. They wanted to know why Saskatchewan would consider changing the royalty structure, which would mean fewer benefits for the province and more for industry.

There were many inquiries about the UDP Report and the public consultation process overall. People wanted to know more about the assumptions underlying the UDP Report and why government chose to provide the mandate it did for the UDP. They wanted to know whether or not government would pay attention to the results of the public consultation process and whether or not there were enough participants in the process to make a difference.

8.2 Information Related to Additional Themes

In terms of uranium upgrading, people wondered about how upgrading could benefit the province and asked about the drawbacks associated with it. They wanted to know more about the environmental and health impacts of upgrading.

When it came to research, development, and training, people had the most questions about medical isotope production – particularly later on in the consultation process. They wanted to know how medical isotopes worked, how they were produced, and whether they could be produced through other means besides nuclear generation.

People had a number of questions about the public consultation process. Some wanted to know how communities for the public meetings were chosen, why the UPD members were not at the public meetings, and the rationale behind some of the information presented in the SaskPower video. They asked about how their input would be used, and what impact it may have on government. People questioned how stakeholders were defined and how their participation would be counted. They wanted to know how they could get more information about power, who would provide it, and when they could access it.

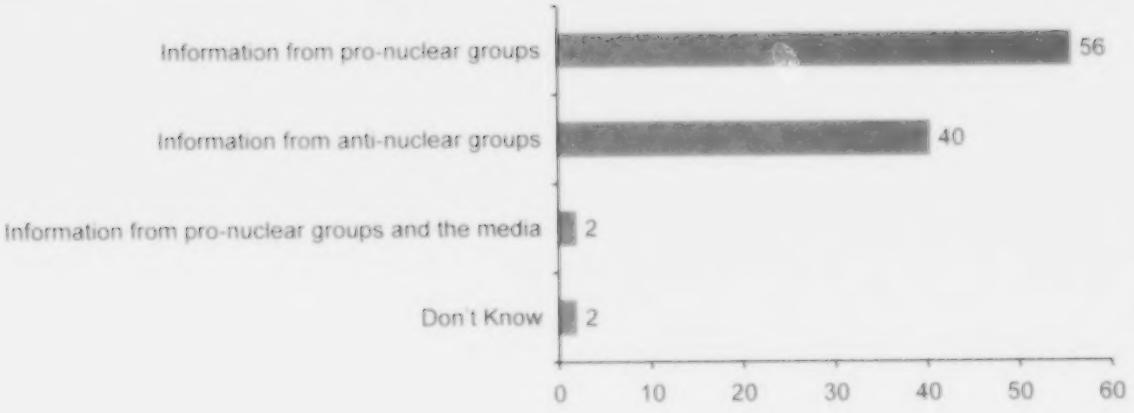
Participants in the consultation process were interested in energy conservation, wanted to know how the government planned to pursue conservation as part of its energy policy, and wanted to know if Saskatchewan was looking to other jurisdictions when researching energy policy. In addition, they wondered if the province was considering implementing some of the kinds of approaches that had worked in other jurisdictions.

Some participants had questions about infrastructure and whether Saskatchewan's infrastructure would be sufficient for future energy consumption and distribution. They wanted to know who would be delivering energy services in the future, and whether there would be a role for others – including individuals – in energy provision.

8.3 Information from Pro-Nuclear and Anti-Nuclear Groups

As the consultation process went on, more responses dealt with the kinds of information that people were receiving from both pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear groups, along with the media. Of fifty-two responses, over half (56%, n=29) expressed concern about information coming from pro-nuclear groups such as business and industry, while 40% (n=21) were concerned about information coming from anti-nuclear groups. A small percentage (2%, n=1) was concerned about information from both the media and pro-nuclear groups.

Figure 48: Concerns about Information on Nuclear Power (% of responses)

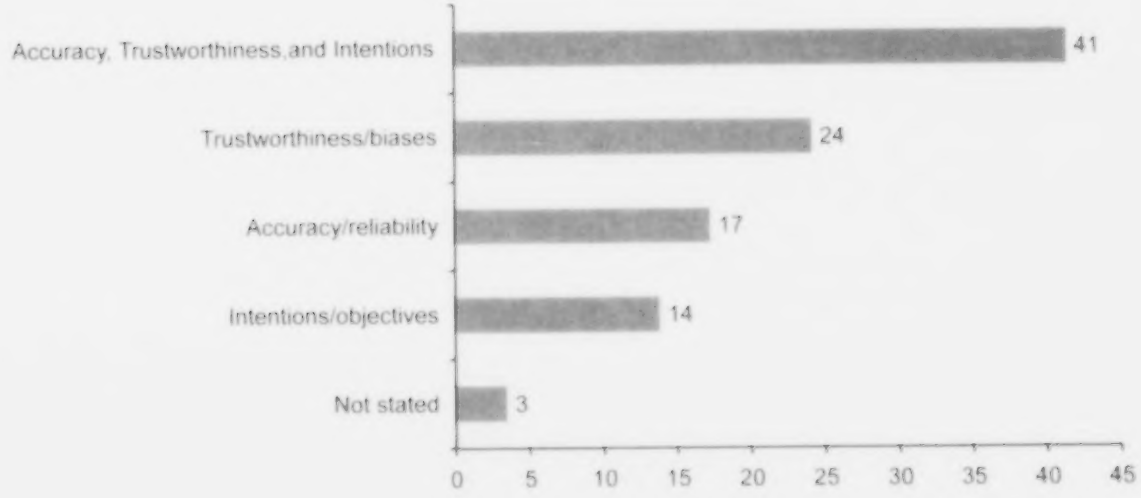


Region

Responses from Lloydminster (100%, n=3), Yorkton (89%, n=8), and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely that those from North Battleford, Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon to be concerned about information from pro-nuclear groups. Responses from Regina (67%, n=8), Prince Albert (50%, n=2), and Saskatoon (n=47%, n=7) were more likely than the other regions to be concerned about information from anti-nuclear groups. North Battleford responses (20%, n=1) were slightly more likely to report being concerned about information from pro-nuclear groups and the media

Of those responses that focused on concerns with pro-nuclear group information, 41% (n=12) expressed concerns about the accuracy and trustworthiness of the information, as well as the intentions of the pro-nuclear groups in providing particular kinds of information (see Figure 49). Another one-quarter (24%, n=7) were concerned about the trustworthiness of the information, or its biases, while 17% (n=5) were concerned about the accuracy or reliability of the information. Finally, 14% (n=4) of the responses expressed concern about the intentions or objectives of the pro-nuclear groups providing the information.

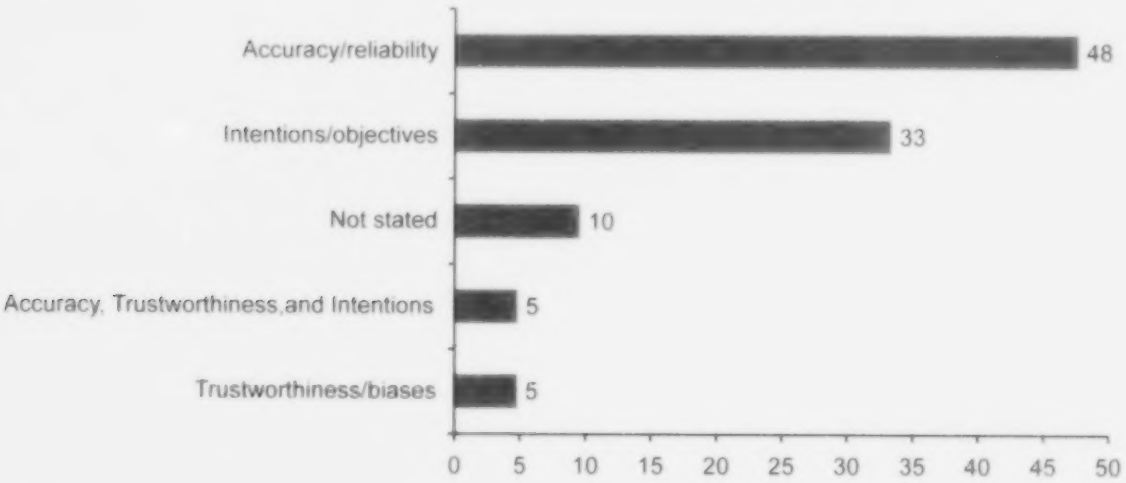
Figure 49: Why Concerned about Information on Nuclear Power from Pro-Nuclear Groups (% of responses)



Region
Responses from Lloydminster (67%, n=2), North Battleford (100%, n=2), and Saskatoon (50%, n=4) were more likely than those from Yorkton, Regina, Prince Albert, and Estevan to be concerned about the accuracy, trustworthiness, and intentions of pro-nuclear information. Moreover, those from Lloydminster (33%, n=1), Prince Albert (100%, n=1), and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely to be concerned about the trustworthiness of the information from pro-nuclear sources. Accuracy and reliability was more likely to be mentioned in responses from Regina (50%, n=2) and Saskatoon (25%, n=2), while in Yorkton (25%, n=2) and Regina (25%, n=1) responses mentioned intentions or objectives more frequently.

Nearly half (48%, n=10) of responses concerned about information presented by anti-nuclear groups focused their concern on its accuracy and reliability, as shown in Figure 50. One-third (33%, n=7) were concerned with the intentions or objectives behind the information, while 5% (n=1) identified concerns about a combination of accuracy, trustworthiness, and intentions. Finally, 5% (n=1) pointed to concerns about trustworthiness and biases within the information.

Figure 50: Why Concerned about Information on Nuclear Power from Anti-Nuclear Groups (% of responses)



Region
Responses from Saskatoon (57%, n=4) and Regina (75%, n=6) were more likely than those from Prince Albert, North Battleford, and Yorkton to question the accuracy or reliability of information from anti-nuclear groups, while those from Prince Albert (50%, n=1), North Battleford (100%, n=1), and Yorkton (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to the intentions or objectives of the information. Regina responses (13%, n=1) highlighted concerns about the accuracy, trustworthiness, and intentions of information from anti-nuclear groups while responses from Saskatoon (14%, n=1) highlighted concerns about the trustworthiness of the information.

People had many other questions throughout this process, including those around government's next steps. Many placed emphasis on the need for government to provide better information on power – including alternative sources of energy – to the people of the province. Some people suggested various ways that this information could be provided, including through distributing informational videos and through continuing the discussion.

8.4 Summary

It is clear that information is a prominent theme in this public consultation process. Who provides the information, what information is provided, and how the information is provided are all questions raised during this process.

There are many questions about the Saskatchewan situation and what the government and SaskPower are doing in regards to other alternative sources of power for the province. People want to know if any research has been undertaken around renewables, and what that research might be. They definitely want to see research into alternative sources of power.

People wanted to know more about the health and environmental impacts of upgrading. They had a number of questions about training, development, and research – particularly around the production of medical isotopes. As such, they wanted to know how they could be produced, how they worked, and whether they could be produced through non-nuclear means.

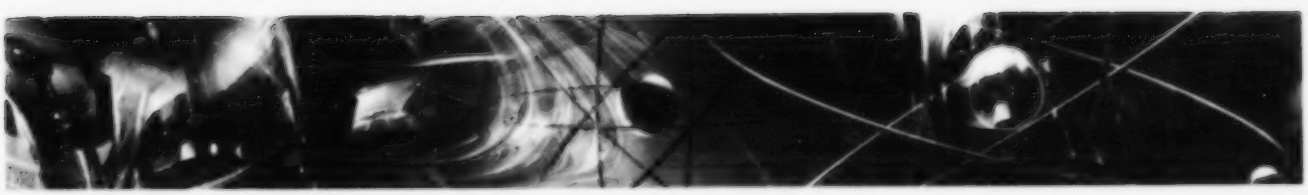
There were a number of questions about the public consultation process, including how the input provided might influence government's decisions around power generation. People wanted to know how they could get additional information about power. They were interested in conservation, and wanted to know if Saskatchewan was thinking about implementing programming to support energy conservation. Others had questions about the energy infrastructure in the province as well as who would be involved in energy production and distribution in the future.

In this discussion, there are concerns about information provided by both the anti-nuclear and pro-nuclear groups regarding the future of uranium in Saskatchewan. It is difficult to know what information can be trusted, as well as how to best absorb the presented information. Many have noted that information in an area as technical as uranium development – and particularly when it comes to power generation – is often challenging to understand.

Overall, people want more information. They say that they need more – and better – information in order to make informed decisions about the future of uranium and the future of power generation in the province.

Other Themes

Other themes identified by participants in the consultation process are grouped into three main categories: 1) other uranium-related issues including upgrading; research, training, and development – including medical isotopes; the UDP strategy; and the uranium industry; 2) public consultation; and 3) other factors to consider when moving forward with energy policy in Saskatchewan.

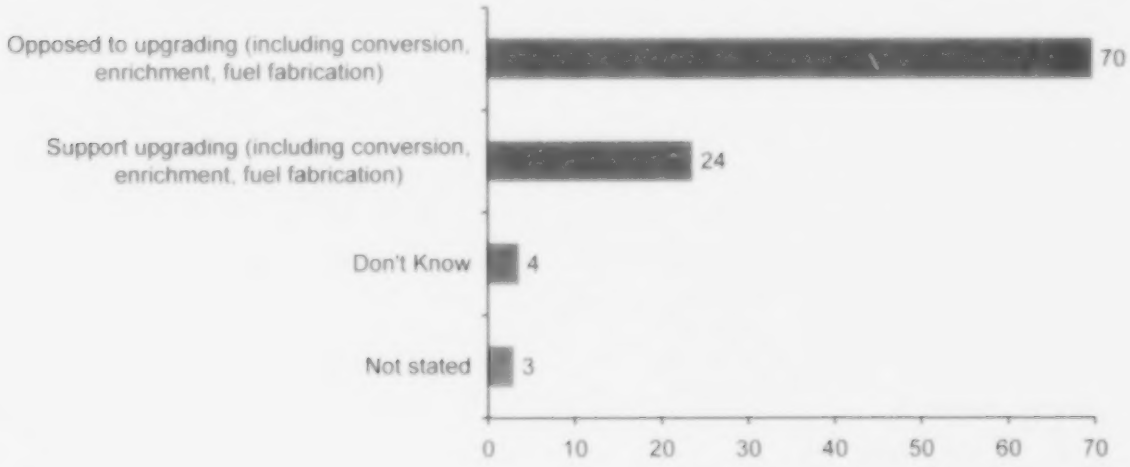


Uranium-Related Issues

Theme 9: Uranium Upgrading

As shown in Figure 51, there were over 300 responses to the UDP Report's specific information and recommendations on the future of uranium upgrading in the province (n=302). Over two-thirds (70%, n=213) of these responses were against the upgrading of uranium, including enrichment, fuel fabrication, and all forms of upgrading. One-quarter (24%, n=72) of the responses were in favour of proceeding with the upgrading of uranium, with most of those favouring all kinds of upgrading (n=52), and a small number specifying that they favoured enrichment (n=14) or conversion (n=5).

Figure 51: Upgrading Uranium in Saskatchewan (% of responses)



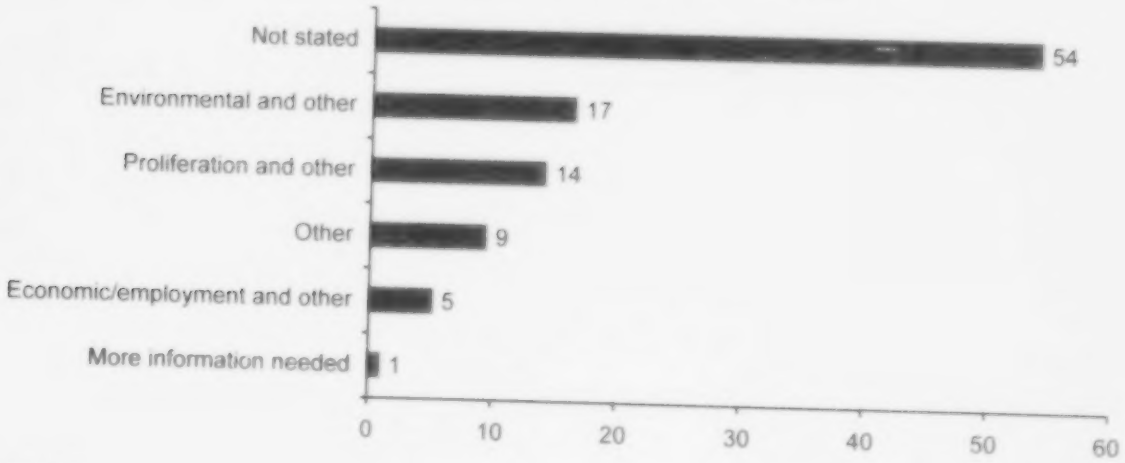
Region

There were some observable differences among the regions when it came to opinions about the upgrading of uranium in Saskatchewan. Responses from Lloydminster (83%, n=15), Prince Albert (75%, n=33), Yorkton (75%, n=9), Regina (75%, n=44), Swift Current (80%, n=4), and Estevan (100%, n=4) were more likely than the other regions to be opposed to upgrading in its various forms, while responses from La Ronge (57%, n=4), North Battleford (33%, n=4), and Saskatoon (40%, n=39) were more likely than the others to favour some kind of upgrading. Small groups of responses from Prince Albert (7%, n=3), Saskatoon (4%, n=4), and Regina (5%, n=3) were slightly more likely to say that they did not know whether they were opposed or supportive.

9.1 Opposed to Uranium Upgrading

Over half (54%, n=115) of those responses opposed to the upgrading of uranium did not specify why they were opposed, as shown in Figure 52. However, 17% (n=35) pointed to environmental and other concerns – highlighting the potential for environmental degradation associated with upgrading – and another 14% (n=30) emphasized the dangers of nuclear proliferation and other issues. They talked about how spent fuel can be upgraded to become part of nuclear weapons and how Saskatchewan should avoid taking part in any of that activity. Other issues, including social and health/safety challenges and the financial costs incurred by government, were identified in 9% (n=20) of the responses. Concerns around economic costs and limited employment were identified in 5% (n=11) of responses, while a small percentage (1%, n=1) said that more information about upgrading in general was needed.

Figure 52: Reasons for Opposition to Uranium Upgrading (% of responses)



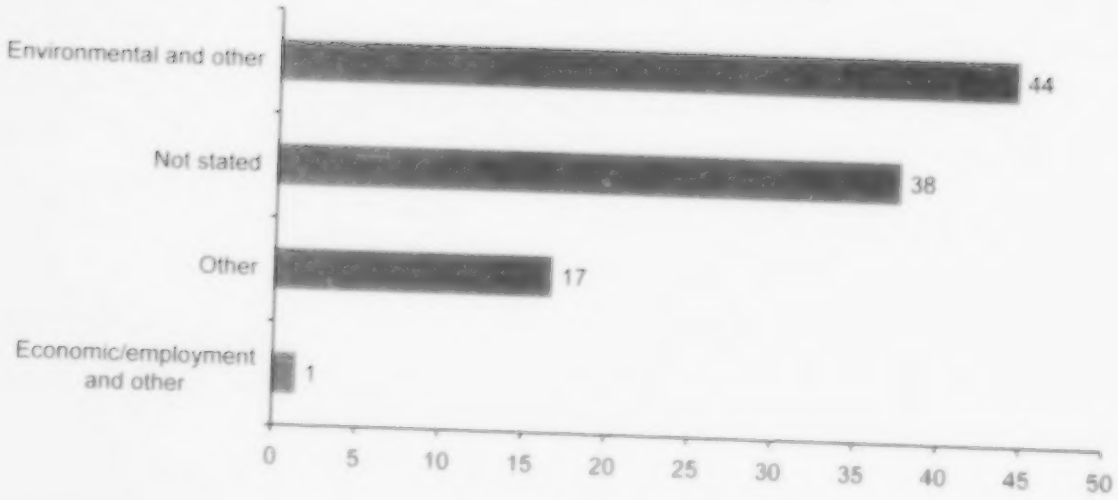
Region

There were some observable regional differences among the responses opposing uranium upgrading. Environmental and other factors were more often reported in responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Prince Albert (22%, n=7), North Battleford (25%, n=2), Saskatoon (19%, n=10), Yorkton (38%, n=3), Swift Current (50%, n=2), and Estevan (50%, n=2) than from Lloydminster or Regina. Responses from Prince Albert (18%, n=6), North Battleford (38%, n=3), Saskatoon (15%, n=8), and Estevan (25%, n=1) were more likely to highlight proliferation and other reasons, while responses from North Battleford (25%, n=2), Regina (11%, n=5), and Estevan (25%, n=1) were more likely to indicate other reasons. Economic and other issues were more often highlighted in Saskatoon (7%, n=4) responses, while the need for more information was highlighted in Regina responses (2%, n=1).

9.2 Supportive of Uranium Upgrading

One-quarter (24%) of responses around uranium upgrading were in favour of upgrading. Of these, 44% (n=32) pointed to environmental and other reasons for why upgrading was a positive move for Saskatchewan, as shown in Figure 53. In fact, some people noted that it was a good time to talk about what would be appropriate in terms of uranium upgrades. Over one-third (38%, n=27) did not specify any reasons, but an additional 17% (n=12) pointed to a number of reasons why upgrading could be positive for the province. Finally, a very small percentage (1%, n=1) pointed to the economic and employment-related value that uranium upgrading could create for the province.

Figure 53: Reasons for Support of Uranium Upgrading (% of responses)



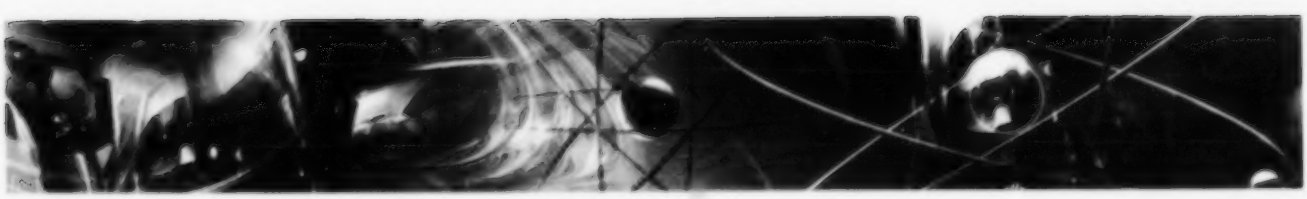
Region

Regional differences in support for upgrading are quite slight. Responses from La Ronge (50%, n=2), Saskatoon (54%, n=21), and Yorkton (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to environmental and other reasons for supporting upgrading, while those from Lloydminster (33%, n=1), Prince Albert (43%, n=3), North Battleford (25%, n=1), and Swift Current (100%, n=1) were more likely to highlight other reasons such as social, health/safety, technology, and proliferation. Those from Saskatoon (3%, n=1) were slightly more likely than the other regions to talk about economic or employment-related reasons for supporting uranium upgrading in the province.

9.3 Summary

The majority of participants in the consultation process who spoke to the upgrading of uranium are largely opposed to any upgrading, including enrichment, fuel fabrication, and all forms of upgrading. Their responses emphasized that their opposition was due to concerns surrounding environmental consequences, the potential for nuclear proliferation, and economic challenges associated with upgrading.

Those who were supportive of the upgrading of uranium focused on the environmental benefits associated with upgrading, as well as economic benefits that would be facilitated by industrial development.

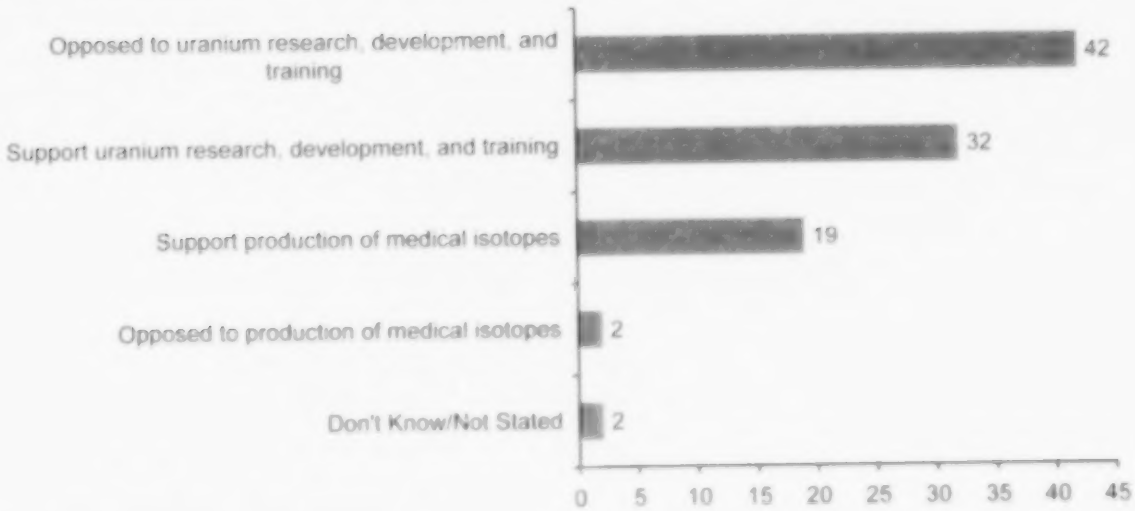


Theme 10: Research, Training, and Development and the Production of Medical Isotopes

During the first part of the consultation process, research and development and training for nuclear-industry related tasks and employment did not raise that much interest for people in the province. However, after the Chalk River, Ontario reactor – which provided much of the supply of medical isotopes for Canada and for Saskatchewan – was shut down for an indefinite period, public concern over access to medical tests involving isotopes increased. This was clear in the consultation process as well.

About four in ten (42%, n=174) responses opposed uranium research, training, and development. However, one-third of responses (32%, n=136) were in favour of going ahead with further uranium or nuclear research, training, and development, as shown in Figure 54. Another sizable number of responses (19%, n=81) spoke directly to the creation of isotopes for medical purposes, either without specifying how they would be created or by saying they wanted to see isotopes produced without nuclear fission. A small number of responses (2%, n=9) were against the production of medical isotopes for any reason. Another 2% (n=10) of responses needed more information in order to make a decision.

Figure 54: Research, Training, and Development in Uranium (% of responses)



Region

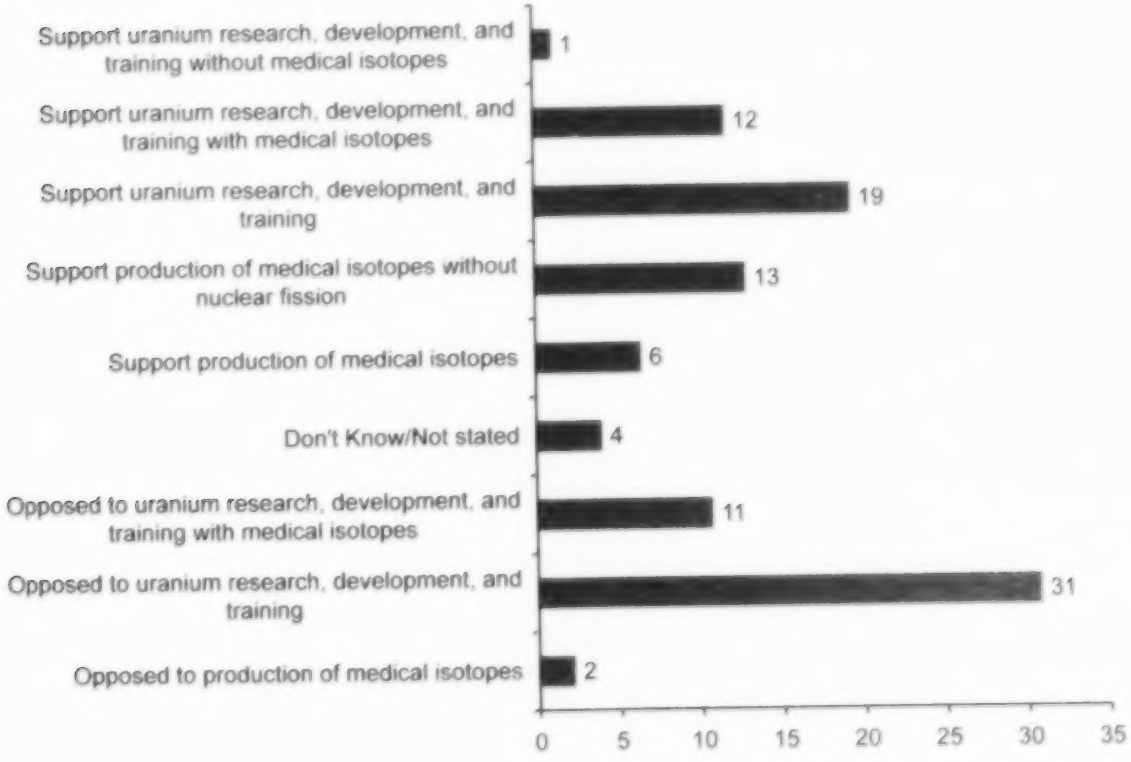
There were observable regional differences between responses about support for or opposition to uranium research, development, and training. Responses from Lloydminster (64%, n=14), Yorkton (47%, n=9), and Estevan (50%, n=1) were more likely to be against uranium research, development, and training, while those from La Ronge (56%, n=5), North Battleford (44%, n=7), and Saskatoon (46%, n=58) were more likely to support uranium research, development, and training.

In terms of support for the production of medical isotopes, there were also some small regional differences. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=1), Prince Albert (36%, n=16), Regina (25%, n=23), Swift Current (36%, n=5), and Estevan (50%, n=1) were more likely than those from other regions to be supportive of the production of medical isotopes, while those from North Battleford (6%, n=1) and Regina (5%, n=5) were more likely than those from other regions to be against the production of medical isotopes.

More specific details concerning particular opinions toward research, development, and training in uranium would be useful, particularly given the discussion around medical isotopes, as shown in Figure 55. Of those responses speaking to uranium research, development, and training, one-third (31%, n=129) were opposed to uranium research, development, and training in any form, while 11% (n=45) specified that they were opposed to research, development, and training as well as to medical isotopes. Nineteen per cent (n=81) of responses supported research, development, and training in uranium generally, while an additional 12% (n=49) supported research, development, and training with medical isotopes. A small percentage (1%, n=6) said that they would support research, development, and training without medical isotopes.

A small percentage (2%, n=9) indicated they opposed the production of medical isotopes. Fewer than one in ten (6%, n=27) gave general support for the production of medical isotopes, while an additional 13% (n=54) supported the production of medical isotopes, but without nuclear fission.

Figure 55: Uranium Research, Development, and Training: with or without Medical Isotopes (% of responses)

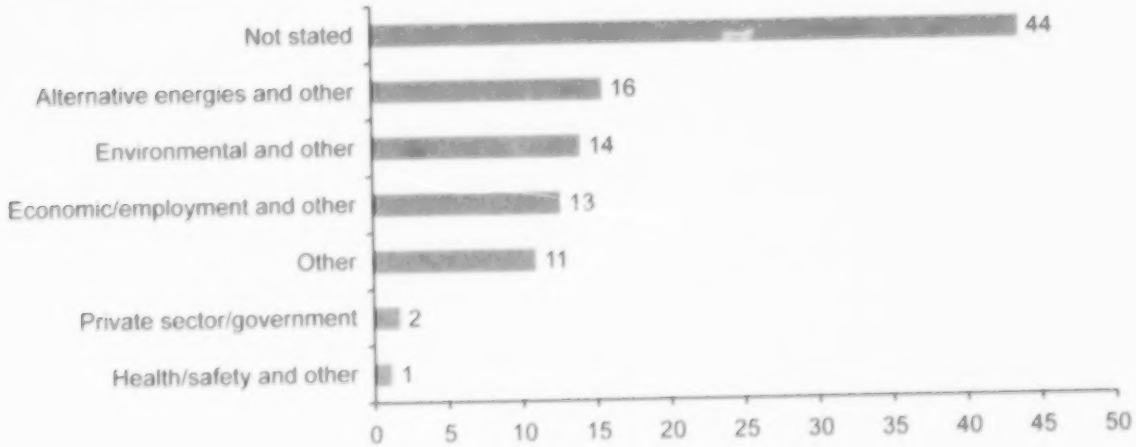


10.1 Opposition to Uranium Development, Research, and Training

Shown in Figure 56, nearly half (44%, n=76) of those opposed to uranium development, research, and training did not provide a reason for their opposition. However, 16% (n=27) of responses pointed to the need to pursue alternative sources of energy, not staying focused on uranium-related research and development. Fourteen per cent (n=25) emphasized environmental and other reasons, noting that nuclear energy was not a green technology and that Saskatchewan should pursue other options. An additional 13% (n=22) of responses pointed to economic factors, which included the cost of pursuing research, development, and training in uranium as well as the emphasis on pursuing this work in a non-renewable area. Some were quite concerned about the related costs and the issues around training people in an area that they thought would be short-lived.

Another 11% (n=19) provided a series of other reasons for opposing research, development, and training in the uranium sector, including concerns about any investment supporting nuclear proliferation; social and education-related concerns about having people invest in education that may not be long-lived; and, in a few responses, the half-life of uranium was mentioned. A small percentage (2%, n=3) pointed to the need to ensure that government would remain the leader in the energy sector, which may be challenged by industry involvement in research, development, and training. Finally, 1% (n=2) pointed to health and safety challenges associated with uranium, including exposure through research, development, and training.

Figure 56: Why Opposed to Uranium Research, Development, and Training (including with medical isotopes) [% of responses]



Region

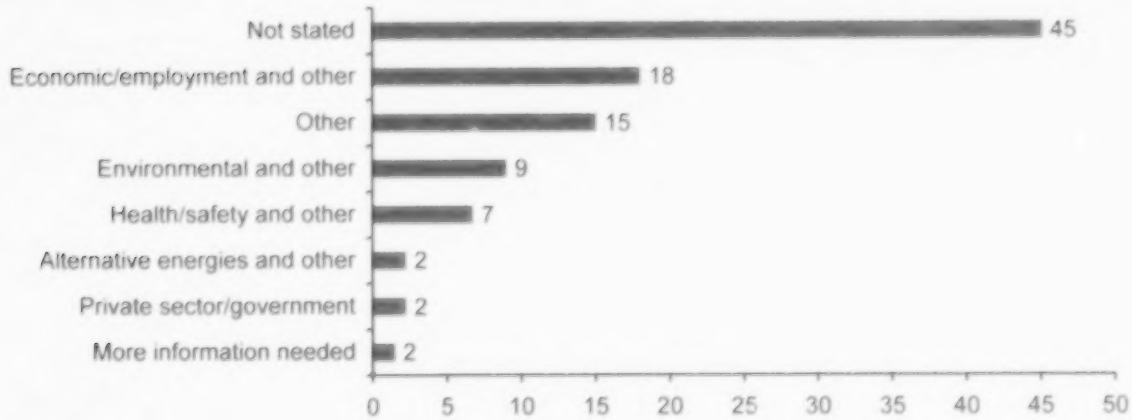
There were some observable regional differences in terms of the reasons for opposition to uranium research, development, and training. Alternative energies and other were more likely to be identified in responses from La Ronge (100%, n=2), Yorkton (22%, n=2), and Swift Current (40%, n=2), while economic/employment and other factors were more commonly identified in responses from North Battleford (40%, n=2), Regina (19%, n=6), Swift Current (20%, n=1), and Estevan (100%, n=1).

Other issues related to opposition to uranium research, development, and training were more likely to be identified in responses from Saskatoon (21%, n=10), while those addressing concerns about the private sector and government were more commonly identified in responses from Regina (9%, n=3). Last, health and safety related concerns were identified more commonly in responses from Saskatoon (2%, n=1) and Prince Albert (5%, n=1).

10.2 Support for Uranium Development, Research, and Training

Nearly half (45%, n=60) of responses supporting uranium research, development, and training did not provide the reasons for their support, as shown in Figure 57. However, 18% (n=24) pointed to the value that uranium research, development, and training could bring in terms of economic and employment benefits. Other reasons to support research, development, and training included social and educational benefits, including benefits to the post-secondary institutions in the province and the ability to use research and development to avoid nuclear proliferation. Many people said that skilled workers would be needed for any uranium industry development, requiring the province and industry to plan accordingly. Some said that this development would be a way to help retain Saskatchewan expertise.

Another 9% (n=12) emphasized that research, development, and training in uranium could help offset carbon emissions, while 7% (n=9) pointed to the health and safety benefits of training and development in this area. A small group of responses spoke to the benefits of exploring alternative energies like nuclear power (2%, n=3), the benefits that both the private sector and government (2%, n=3) could achieve in this area, and the need for more information on uranium research, development, and training (2%, n=2).



Region

There were some regional differences in terms of identifying why responses favoured uranium research, development, and training. Economic/employment and other factors were more likely to be identified in responses from La Ronge (40%, n=2), Yorkton (40%, n=2), and Regina (30%, n=8), while those from Saskatoon (23%, n=13) and Yorkton (20%, n=1) were more likely than responses from other regions to point to a combination of other reasons. Environmental and other factors were more likely to be part of the responses from Lloydminster (20%, n=1), North Battleford (14%, n=1), Saskatoon (12%, n=7), and Swift Current (25%, n=1) than in responses from other regions.

Health/safety and other reasons were more likely to be mentioned in responses from Prince Albert (13%, n=1), North Battleford (14%, n=1), and Yorkton (20%, n=1), while those from Regina (4%, n=1) and Swift Current (25%, n=1) were more likely than responses from the other regions to point to alternative energies and other reasons for supporting uranium research, development, and training. Private sector and government-related reasons were mentioned more frequently in responses from Saskatoon (4%, n=2) and Regina (4%, n=1), while those from Prince Albert (13%, n=1) and Swift Current (25%, n=1) were more likely than the others to want additional information about uranium research, development, and training.

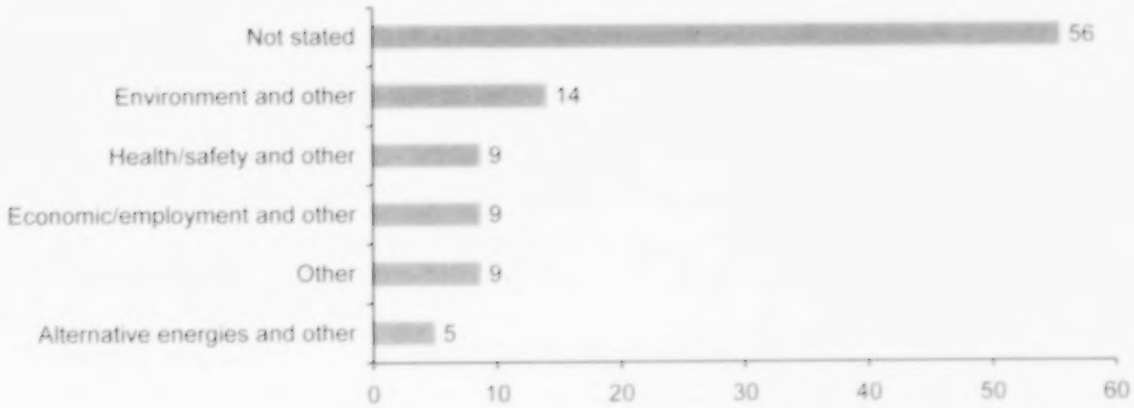
10.3 Medical Isotopes

After the Chalk River reactor was shut down for repairs, the federal government began a process to determine if other provinces and locations would be interested in providing these isotopes. Saskatchewan announced that it would be submitting a proposal to the federal government, which resulted in a variety of reactions from the people providing input into the consultations on the UDP Report.

As well as the mixed references among those responses that spoke to uranium research, development, and training, nine responses from Saskatoon, North Battleford, and Regina specifically opposed the production of nuclear isotopes, speaking to health and safety concerns around uranium, concerns about the suitability and reliability of the technology currently used to create medical isotopes, and a mix of other concerns.

However, 81 responses indicated that they would support the production of medical isotopes. This included 27 responses supportive of the production of medical isotopes generally and 54 for the production of medical isotopes without fission. These supporters indicated a variety of reasons for going ahead with the production of medical isotopes, as shown in Figure 58.

Figure 58: Support for the Production of Medical Isotopes, with or without Fission (% of respondents)



Over half of those supporting the production of medical isotopes did not specify why they support this action; however, 14% (n=11) pointed to environmental and other reasons, including the value in producing isotopes. An additional 9% (n=7) pointed to health and safety needs – including the medical value associated with nuclear medicine. Nine per cent (n=7) identified economic and employment-related benefits that result from nuclear medicine, while another 9% (n=7) pointed to the social benefits associated with medical testing. Small percentages identified the benefits of alternative energies (5%, n=4) – whether through new ways of producing isotopes or through nuclear power.

Region

Reasons for supporting medical isotopes varied throughout the province. Those in Swift Current (60%, n=3) were more likely than those in Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, or Estevan to point to environmental and other reasons for supporting medical isotopes. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=1), La Ronge (100%, n=2), Prince Albert (13%, n=2), Yorkton (33%, n=1), and Estevan (100%, n =1) were more likely than those in other regions to identify the importance of health/safety and other factors when supporting the production of medical isotopes.

Economic/employment factors were identified in greater percentages in responses from Saskatoon (17%, n=2) and Regina (13%, n=3), while responses from Prince Albert (25%, n=4) and Regina (13%, n=3) were more likely than the others to point to other reasons for their support. Finally, Yorkton responses (33%, n=1) were more likely than the others to talk about alternative energies and others as a reason for supporting medical isotopes.

10.4 Summary

While nearly half of the consultation-related responses were opposed to uranium research, development, and training, nearly one-third supported continued and future activity in these areas.

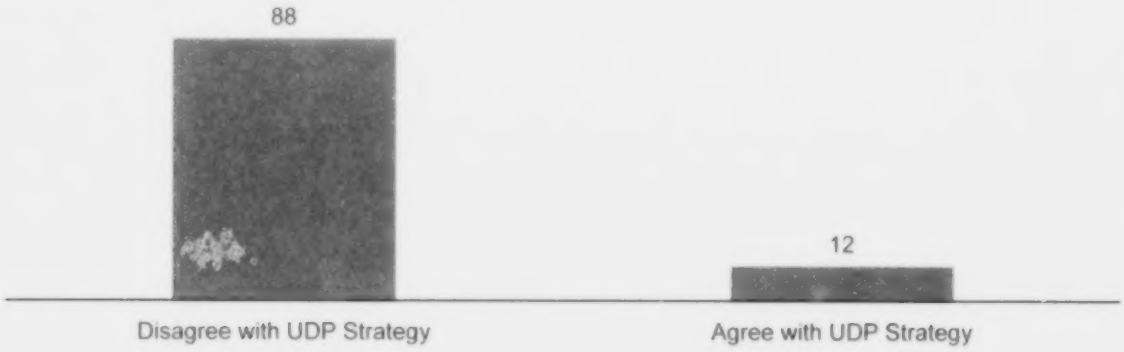
Responses opposed to uranium research, development, and training pointed to opportunities in alternative energies, to the desire to avoid non-green technologies including uranium, and to the costs of doing research (including opportunity costs) in this field. Those supportive of uranium research, development, and training spoke to the value of this work in terms of economic, employment, social, educational, health-related, and environmental benefits.

When public discussion developed around the role of medical isotopes in the context of research, development, and training, it became clear that people were very interested in this topic. Nearly one-quarter (19%) of all responses referring to research, development, and training spoke specifically to the need to produce medical isotopes, while a small percentage (2%) of responses were against the production of medical isotopes – without referring to any other issues in research, development, and training. Those supportive of producing medical isotopes were divided as well: nearly three-quarters supported medical isotopes created without fission.

Theme 11: UDP Strategy for Saskatchewan

The majority of responses that focused on the overall UDP Strategy for Saskatchewan were opposed to the strategy (88%, n=249), as shown in Figure 59. Just over one in ten (12%, n=33) supported the UDP's strategy for uranium in Saskatchewan in total.

Figure 59: UDP Strategy for Saskatchewan (% of responses)



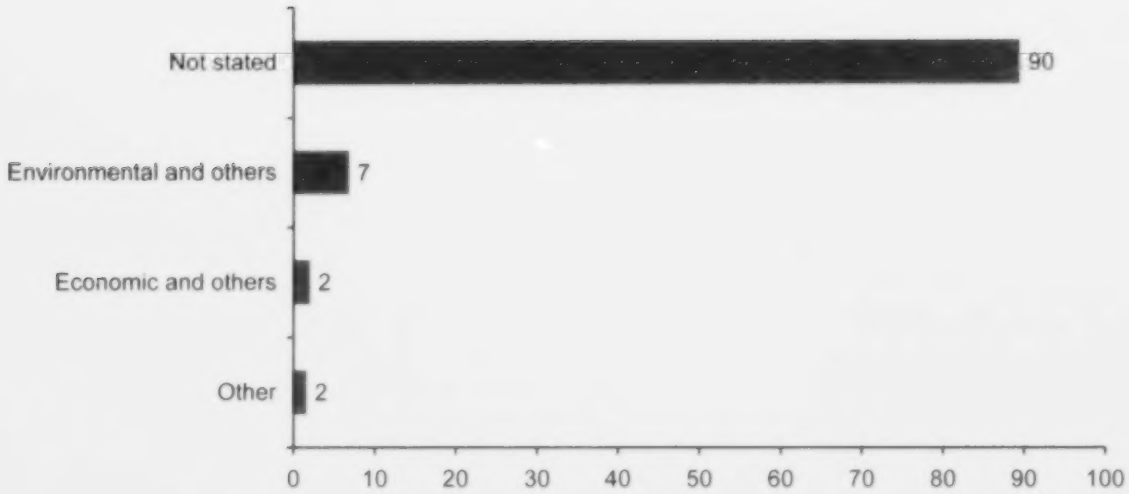
Region

There were some observable differences among responses from the various regions in the province when it came to support for or opposition to the UDP Report's uranium strategy for Saskatchewan. Responses from Lloydminster (98%, n=106), Prince Albert (97%, n=72), Swift Current (100%, n=3), and the Athabasca Basin (100%, n=2) were more likely than those from the other regions to disagree with the UPD recommendations. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=2), La Ronge (67%, n=4), North Battleford (33%, n=1), Saskatoon (35%, n=14), Yorkton (20%, n=2), and Regina (23%, n=5) were more likely than responses from the other regions to agree with the UDP recommendations.

11.1 Disagreement with the UDP Strategy

While a large percentage of responses disagreed with the UDP uranium strategy for Saskatchewan, most did not specify why (see Figure 60). However, 7% (n=17) of responses focused on environmental and other issues, arguing that the uranium strategy would have negative impacts on the environment. Another 2% (n=5) pointed to economic issues, such as the cost of investing in the uranium development cycle, and the costs for government to support the expansion of the industry through incentives and a potentially revised royalty structure. Two per cent (n=5) pointed to a number of reasons for their disagreement with the strategy, including concerns about the balance between the private sector and government's role in supporting uranium development, concerns about the length of uranium's half-life, and limitations of uranium-related technology.

Figure 60: Reasons for Disagreement with UDP Uranium Strategy for Saskatchewan [% of responses]



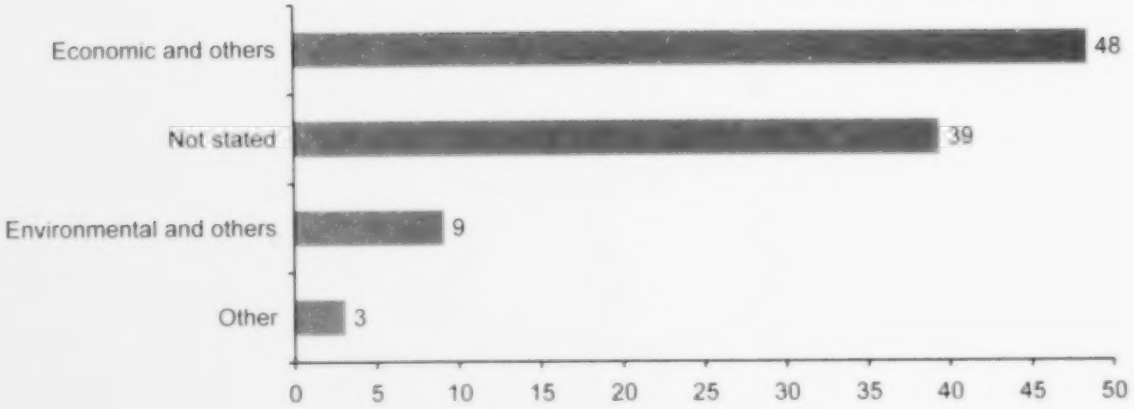
Region
Some variations in responses from the different provincial regions on why they disagreed with the UDP uranium strategy for Saskatchewan were visible. A greater percentage of responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Saskatoon (23%, n=6), Yorkton (13%, n=1), Regina (19%, n=3), Swift Current (67%, n=2), and the Athabasca Basin (50%, n=1) pointed to environmental and other reasons, while a greater percentage of responses from Saskatoon (4%, n=1), Yorkton (13%, n=1), Regina (6%, n=1), and the Athabasca Basin (50%, n=1) talked about economic and other reasons for their disagreement with the strategy. Finally, a greater percentage of responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), North Battleford (50%, n=1), Saskatoon (4%, n=1), and Yorkton (13%, n=1) specified that they had other reasons for disagreeing.

11.2 Support for the UDP Strategy

Nearly half of responses (48%, n= 16) supporting the UDP uranium strategy for Saskatchewan indicated that they were doing so for economic and other reasons, as shown in Figure 61. The economic benefits – for businesses, workers, and communities – were mentioned in nearly half of these responses. Over one-third (39%, n=13) did not provide reasons for their support, but another 9% (n=3) identified the value of the uranium development strategy in environmental and other terms, focusing on the environmental value that non-greenhouse gas emitting nuclear power could provide.

In addition, there were differences in reasons for agreement with the UDP uranium strategy by region. Responses from La Ronge (50%, n=2), Lloydminster (100%, n=2), Prince Albert (50%, n=1), North Battleford (100%, n=1), Saskatoon (57%, n=8), and Yorkton (100%, n=2) were more likely to point to economic and other reasons, while those from Buffalo Narrows (50%, n=1) and La Ronge (25%, n=1) were more likely than the others to mention environmental and other factors. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (50%, n=1) were more likely than those from La Ronge, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Regina to specify other reasons for why they agree with the UDP uranium strategy for Saskatchewan.

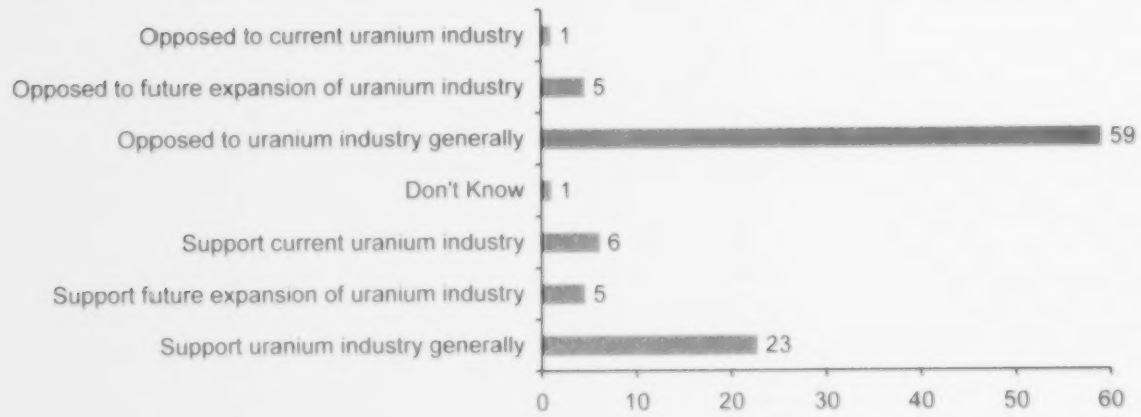
Figure 61: Reasons for Agreement with UDP Uranium Strategy for Saskatchewan (% of responses)



11.3 Uranium Industry

One hundred responses focused on the uranium industry in Saskatchewan. About two-thirds of those responses (65% in total, n=65) were against the industry, whether generally (59%, n=59), in terms of future expansion (5%, n=5), or currently (1%, n=1), as shown in Figure 62. However, just over one-third (34%, n=34) supported the uranium industry, with 23% (n=23) expressing support generally, 5% (n=5) providing support for future expansion, and 6% (n=6) for the current industry.

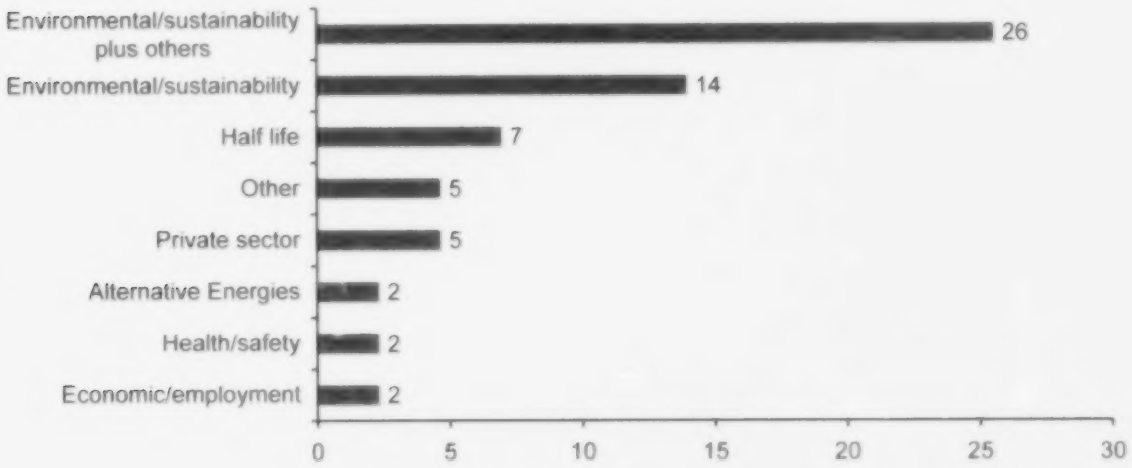
Figure 62: Support for and Opposition to Saskatchewan's Uranium Industry (% of responses)



Region

Overall, responses speaking directly to the uranium industry itself from La Ronge (100%, n=1), Prince Albert (80%, n=4), Estevan (100%, n=1), Lloydminster (100%, n=2), Yorkton (100%, n=8), and Swift Current (100%, n=1) were more likely than those from Saskatoon (33%, n=7), North Battleford (50%, n=2), and Regina (64%, n=9) to oppose the uranium industry generally, or to oppose current and/or future expansion. Those from Saskatoon (67%, n=14), North Battleford (50%, n=2), and Regina (29%, n=4) were more likely than the others to support uranium development generally.

Of those opposed to the uranium industry, four in ten or 40% (n=17) pointed to environmental/ sustainability reasons in combination with others (Figure 63). These responses came from La Ronge, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, and Estevan. Over one-quarter (26%, n=11) of responses reported environmental reasons along with others for their opposition to the uranium industry. Fourteen per cent (n=6) said environmental reasons alone was why they opposed the uranium industry, while 7% (n=3) pointed to uranium's half-life as an important reason for not supporting the uranium industry (the half-life indicates how long Saskatchewan people may be dealing with the associated problems of nuclear energy). Many responses emphasized that it is necessary to remember that the uranium industry represents the full range of the uranium lifecycle and that future generations of Saskatchewan people will be dealing with the results of any decision to go forward with the uranium industry.



Other reasons for opposing the uranium industry include the involvement of the private sector (5%, n=2), the need to focus on alternative energies (2%, n=1), health/safety concerns (2%, n n=1), and economic/employment (2%, n=1) issues.

Region

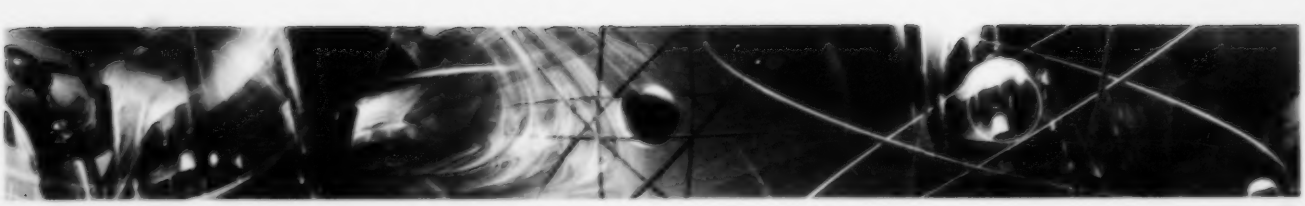
Most responses supportive of the uranium industry from Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, and Regina did not provide reasons for this support (86%, n=19), although a small percentage indicated that support was related to environmental/sustainability factors (10%, n=2) and the potential for economic development and employment (5%, n=1).

11.4 Summary

The majority of responses addressing the UDP's strategy for uranium development in Saskatchewan were opposed to it, speaking to concerns about environmental impacts, the cost of investment, uranium's half-life, and the limitations of uranium-related technology.

Approximately one in ten (12%) of the responses addressing the UDP's strategy for uranium development in Saskatchewan supported it, referring to economic benefits for businesses, workers, and communities, as well as the environmental value that uranium could generate if it were to replace current forms of energy production.

A small number of responses spoke directly to nuclear generation technology, with over half speaking favourably of the technology. Another group of responses focused on the uranium industry itself, while two-thirds indicated that they were against both the continuation and the expansion of the uranium industry – primarily because of environmental and sustainability factors.

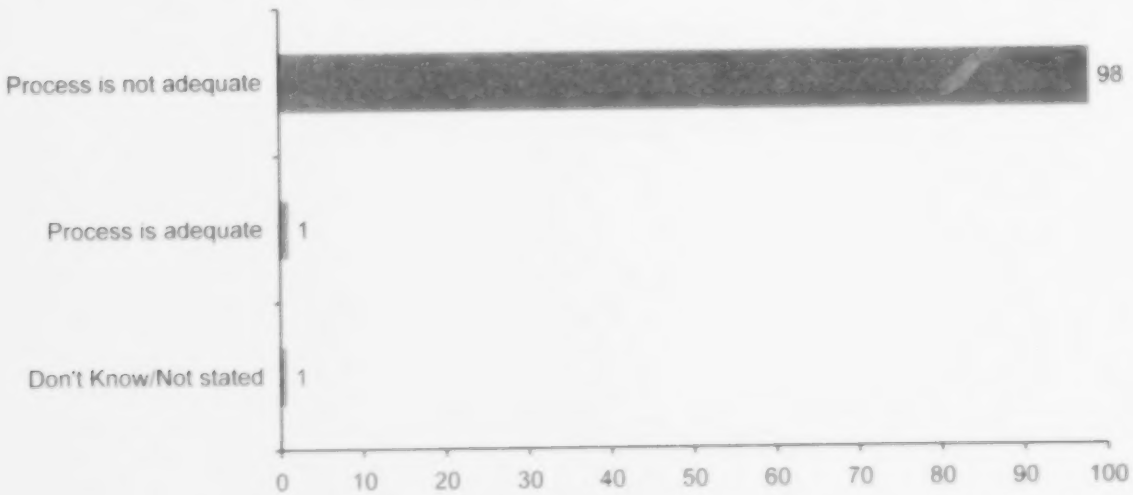


Theme 12: Public Consultation Process

While the consultation process was designed to focus on what people had to say about the UDP Report, Saskatchewan people also expressed their opinions about the public consultation process itself.

12.1 Adequacy of Public Consultation Process

Nearly 300 responses focused on the adequacy of the public consultation process overall, as shown in Figure 64. Almost all – 98% (n=288) of these reported that the process was not adequate. A small group (1%, n=3) said that it was adequate, while the same percentage of responses (1%, n=3) did not respond or did not assess whether or not the process was a good one.

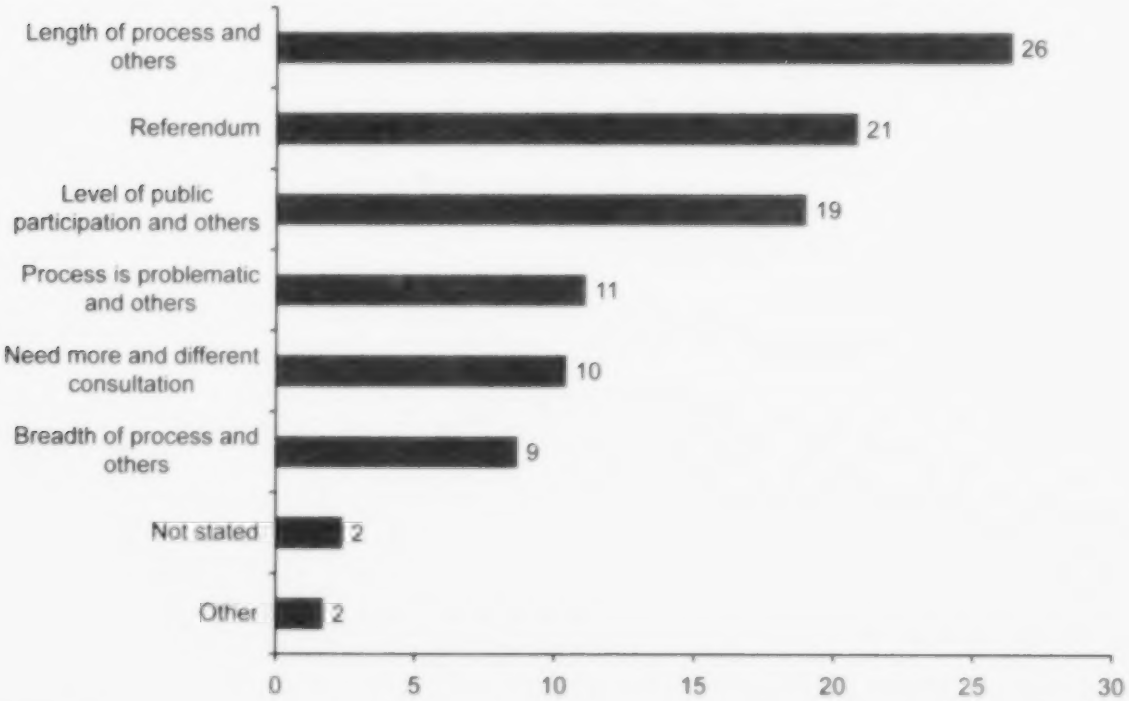


Shown in Figure 65, there were a number of factors that responses focused on for why the process inadequate One-quarter (26%, n=76) pointed primarily to the length of the process, but had other concerns. Many noted that the consultation process seemed quite condensed, that it did not provide people with the time to learn or to read about uranium in the UDP Report. Moreover, many believed that there was not enough time to formulate their thoughts and present them to the Chair.

In addition, nearly one-quarter (21%, n=60) of responses indicated that the public consultation process was not enough to enable the government to go ahead with further uranium development, particularly nuclear energy and waste storage. Instead, these responses argued that it was necessary for government to have a referendum on the future of uranium before moving forward.

Approximately 20% (19%, n=53) of responses pointed to the level of participation, among other issues, as being problematic for the public consultation process. These responses pointed to the number of people participating and the number of people who did not participate – at least in the public meetings. Many of these also pointed to who participated and who did not, arguing that the people speaking in the public meetings did not reflect the Saskatchewan population. Another 11% (n=32) said that the process itself was problematic because they perceived that government had already made up its mind about proceeding with uranium development.

Ten per cent (n=30) pointed to the need for additional and different consultation before government should go ahead with uranium development. Some wondered how the public meeting locations were chosen, and why their communities were not included in the public meetings. The breadth of the process was also highlighted by 9% (n=25) of responses. Many of these responses were concerned because the process did not include all of the possible energy options.



Region

There were some observable differences in why people from various regions of the province assessed the public consultation process as inadequate. When it came to the length of process, responses from North Battleford (29%, n=4), Yorkton (39%, n=5), Estevan (39%, n=5) and Athabasca Basin (46%, n=6) were more likely than those from other regions to say that the consultation process did not last long enough to provide them with enough time to prepare and properly participate. Those from Regina (44%, n=37) were more likely than responses from other regions to see a need for a referendum, while responses from Buffalo Narrows (29%, n=2), Lloydminster (23%, n=3), Prince Albert (18%, n=5), North Battleford (50%, n=7), and the Athabasca Basin (23%, n=3) were more likely to point to the level of public participation among others as problematic.

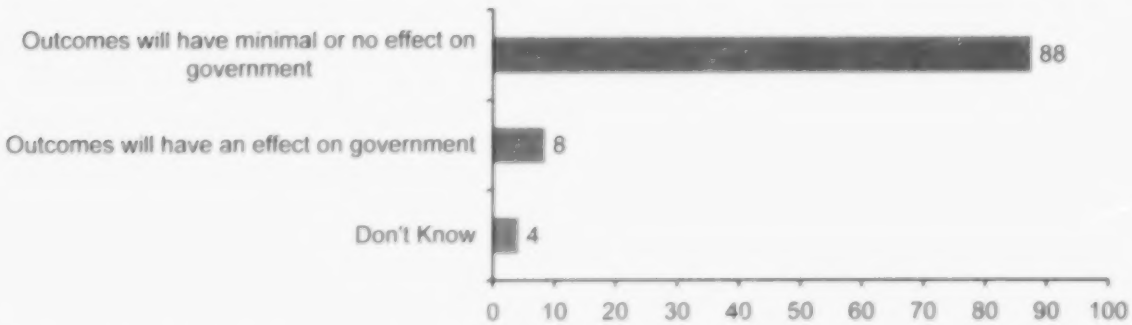
Responses from Prince Albert (21%, n=6), Saskatoon (21%, n=10), Swift Current (26%, n=5), and Estevan (15%, n=2) were more likely than responses from other regions to say that the process itself was problematic, along with other reasons, to explain the inadequacy of the consultation process. The need for more and different consultation was identified more commonly in responses from Buffalo Narrows (14%, n=1), La Ronge (25%, n=2), Lloydminster (31%, n=4), Prince Albert (14%, n=3), and the Athabasca Basin (31%, n=4). Finally, responses from Buffalo Narrows (14%, n=1), Saskatoon (17%, n=8), Yorkton (23%, n=3), and Estevan (15%, n=2) were more likely to point to issues with the breadth or focus of the consultation process and others, while Prince Albert (7%, n=2), Yorkton (8%, n=1), and Swift Current (5%, n=1) responses were slightly more likely to mention other reasons for deeming the public consultation process to be inadequate.

It is important to note that these results, which show support for a referendum before moving ahead with uranium development in the province, do not tell the complete story. During a number of public meetings, a show of hands was requested by participants, which demonstrated many people attending were in support of a referendum or a plebiscite on uranium development.

12.2 Outcomes of Public Consultation Process

Nearly one hundred responses from all regions of the province addressed what they thought would be the outcomes of the public consultation process. A large majority – 88% (n=84) said that the outcomes of the public consultation process would have little or no effect on government's decision-making around uranium development (see Figure 66). In addition, 8% (n=8) of the responses felt that government would be affected by the outcomes of the public consultation process, while an additional 4% (n=4) did not know whether government would be affected by the outcomes of the process.

Figure 66: Outcomes of the Public Consultation Process will Affect Government (% of responses)



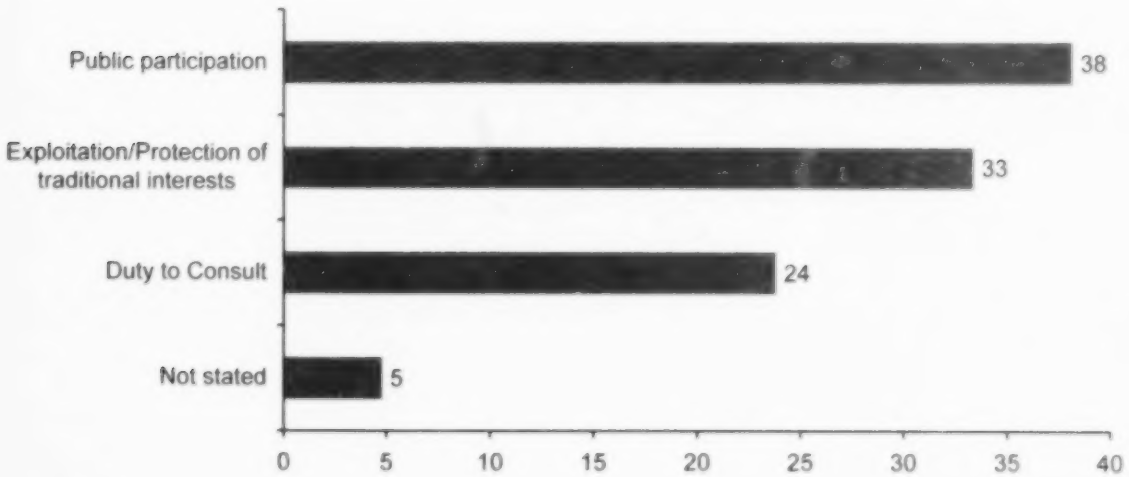
The same 88% (n=84) of responses that said the outcomes of the public consultation process would have little or no effect on government also said that government had already made up its mind on uranium development. Just over 10% (n=10) of responses said that they believed government would listen to the outcomes of the public consultation process, which included the 8% who said that outcomes will have an effect and 2% of those who had said that they did not know whether outcomes of the process would impact government. While some emphasized that they believed government had already decided to go ahead with nuclear power generation, others questioned whether government had made its decision. They wanted to be reassured that their input would be valued by government, and was not a waste of their time.

Region
Responses from Prince Albert (14%, n=1), Swift Current (43%, n=3), the Athabasca Basin (50%, n=1), and Estevan (20%, n=1) were more likely to say that government would listen, while those from Saskatoon (94%, n=17), Lloydminster (100%, n=7), North Battleford (100%, n=3), Yorkton (91%, n=10), and Regina (92%, n=22) were more likely to say that government had already made up its mind to go ahead with the expansion of uranium development.

12.3 Public Concerns about the Involvement of First Nations and other Aboriginal Peoples, and the Duty to Consult

Twenty-one responses from members of the public in Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Saskatoon, Regina, and the Athabasca Basin expressed concerns about the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in a public consultation process. It is important to note that these responses came as public involvement in a consultation process only. There can be no analysis of the sufficiency of the level or results of the duty to consult, as this was not a duty to consult process.

Of these, over one-third (38%, n=8) had concerns about the level of engagement of Aboriginal peoples in the consultation process (see Figure 67). Another one-third (33%, n=7) expressed concerns about the potential for exploitation of traditional lands, and the need to protect these traditional interests – particularly in the Northern areas of the province. Another one-quarter (24%, n=5) emphasized the Duty to Consult, saying that any discussions about uranium development on First Nations lands would have to be between the Crown, or the Government of Saskatchewan, and First Nations leaders and communities.



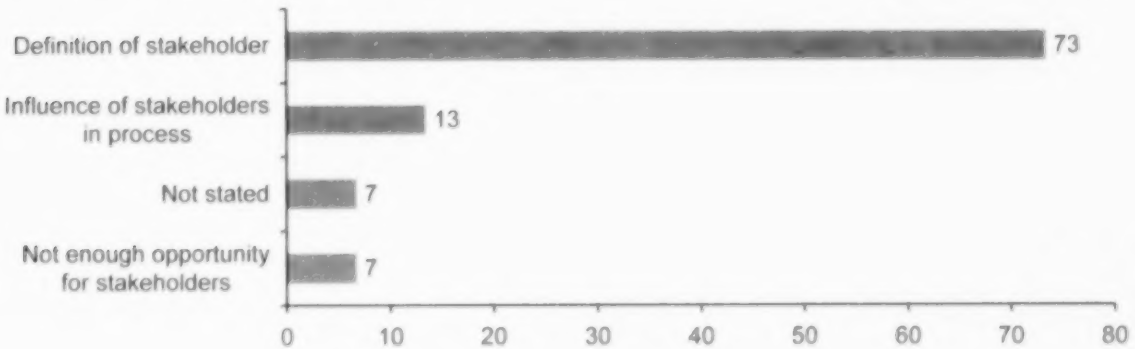
Region
These numbers indicate differences among the regions in terms of concern about public participation of Aboriginal people in the public consultation process. Responses from Buffalo Narrows (100%, n=1), Lloydminster (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to the need to recognize the Duty to Consult, while responses from Regina (60%, n=3) were more likely to emphasize the need to avoid exploitation of traditional interests, particularly in the North. Those from La Ronge (100%, n=2), the Athabasca Basin (67%, n=4), and Saskatoon (50%, n=2) were more likely to point to the public participation of Aboriginal peoples being inadequate.

12.4 Stakeholder Involvement

There was discussion – particularly near the beginning of the public consultation process – around what it meant to be a stakeholder. Some said that members of the public had a stake in what happens in the province, so they should be considered a stakeholder. Another set of responses addressed the influence of stakeholders in the process. A small group of fifteen responses from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, and Regina raised concerns about the involvement of stakeholder groups in the consultation process.

Of these, three-quarters (73%, n=11) were concerned about the definition of stakeholder (see Figure 68). Another 13% (n=2) were concerned about the influence of stakeholders in the process. Some concluded that the vocal position in favour of nuclear development taken by IBEW, the advertising being done by Bruce Power, and the presence of AECL in the province all indicated that government had made up its mind – or at least was more likely to be influenced by these groups instead of by the public. However, a small set of responses said that stakeholders did not have enough opportunity to participate (7%, n=1).

Figure 68: Concern about Role of Stakeholders in Public Consultation Process (% of responses)



Region
Responses from Lloydminster (100%, n=1), North Battleford (100%, n=1), and Regina (100%, n=6) were more likely to emphasize the definition of stakeholder in the consultation process, while responses from Saskatoon (40%, n=2) were more likely to point to the influence of stakeholders in the process. Responses from Prince Albert were more likely to say that there was not enough opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the process (50%, n=1).

12.5 Access to Information on the Consultation Process

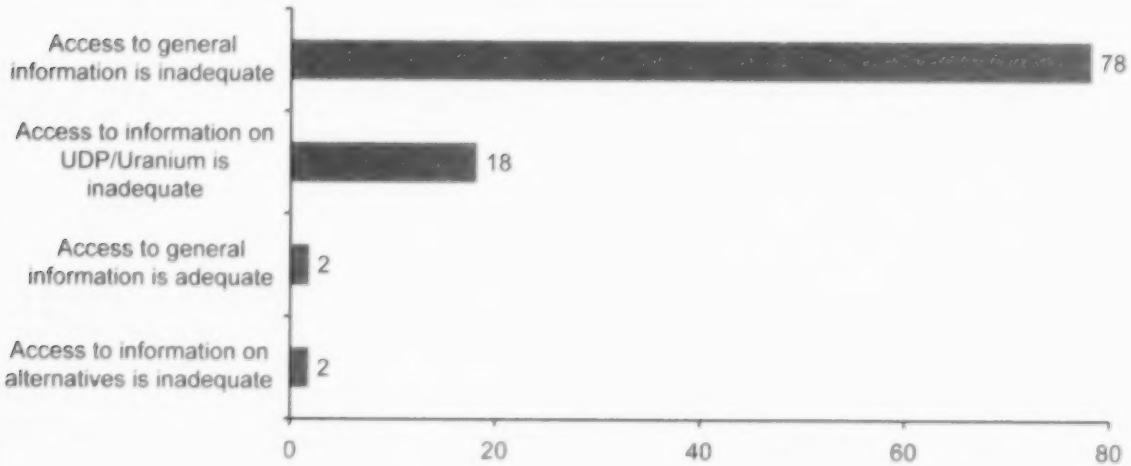
Seven responses from the Athabasca Basin, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Regina, and Estevan focused on the ability to access information on the consultation process. Of those, 86% (n=6) said that they had difficulty accessing information on the consultation process. They reported having difficulty accessing written information (43%, n=3), access to experts and written information in advance of the consultation sessions (n=43%, n=3), and difficulty understanding the information provided (29%, n=1).

12.6 Access to Information at Public Meetings

Many people commented on the way that the public meetings were organized and run.

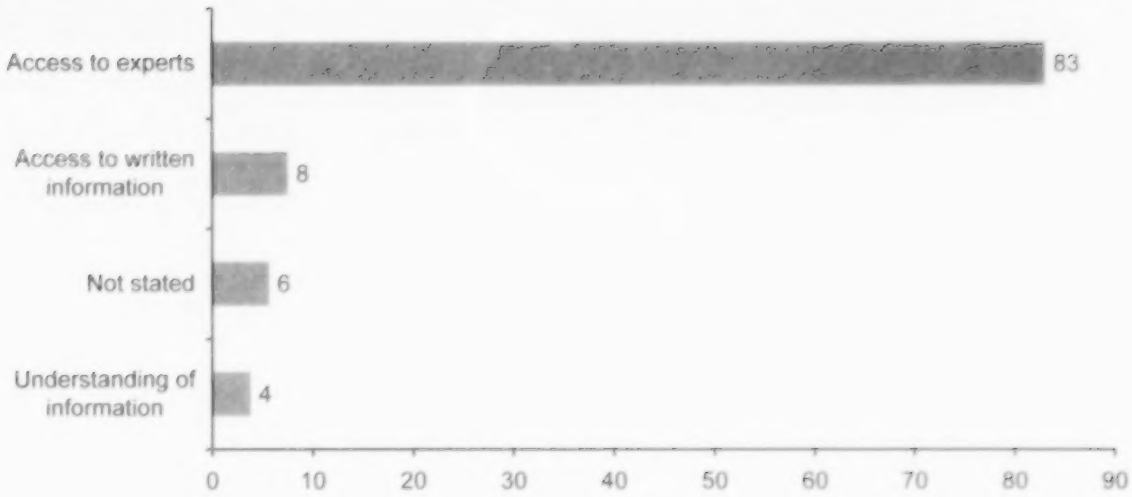
Fifty-five responses from La Ronge, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, and Estevan focused on the access to information at the public meetings themselves. Overall, 98% indicated that access to information was inadequate (see Figure 69). Three-quarters (78%, n=43) said that access to general information was not adequate, while 18% (n=10) said that access to information on the UDP Report and on uranium was not adequate. In addition, 2% (n=1) said access to the information on alternatives was not adequate. However, two percent (n=1) said that access to the information provided at the sessions was adequate. On this particular issue, there were not any substantive differences among responses from the various regions.

Figure 69: Accessing Information Provided at Public Meetings (% of responses)



The majority of responses (83%, n=44) pointed to the need for greater access to experts during the public meetings, as seen in Figure 70. During the public consultation meetings, UDP Chair Dr. Richard Florizone presented information on the UDP Report via video, while information on Saskatchewan's energy situation was presented via a video prepared by SaskPower. Many people welcomed this information. However, others wanted representatives of the UDP Committee to be present at the consultations so that they could answer questions from the public. Others wanted more information to be presented by experts at the sessions. Another 8% (n=4) wanted greater access to written information, while 4% (n=2) wanted a greater understanding of information as they found it to be difficult to process.

Figure 70: Why Accessing Information Provided at Public Meetings was Difficult (% of responses)

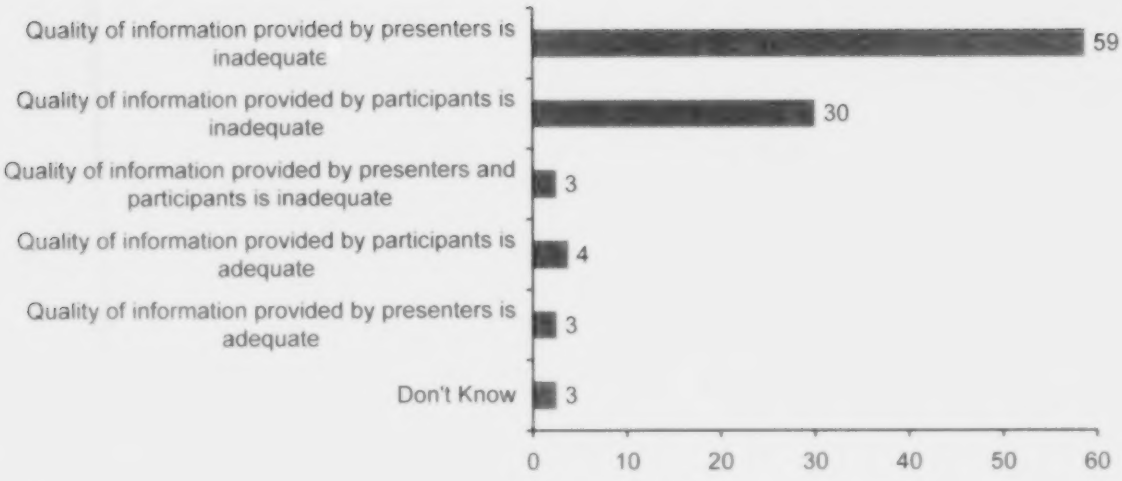


Region

Responses from La Ronge (20%, n=1), Prince Albert (17%, n=1), and Estevan (40%, n=2) were slightly more likely to mention needing access to written information, while responses from Saskatoon (100%, n=2), Swift Current (100%, n=8), Lloydminster (100%, n=4), and Regina (89%, n=8) were more likely to say that they needed better access to experts. Responses from Yorkton (11%, n=1) and Regina (11%, n=1) were more likely to point to the difficulty associated with understanding the information contained in the process.

12.7 Quality of Information Provided at the Public Meetings

Overall, 80 responses focused on the quality of information provided at the public meetings (see Figure 71). Over half (59%, n=47) indicated that the quality of information provided by presenters was inadequate. Nearly one-third (30%, n=24) said that the quality of information provided by participants was inadequate, while another 3% (n=2) said that the information provided by both presenters and participants was not adequate. Four per cent (n=3) of responses indicated that the quality of information provided by participants was adequate, while 3% (n=2) said that the quality of information provided by presenters was adequate.



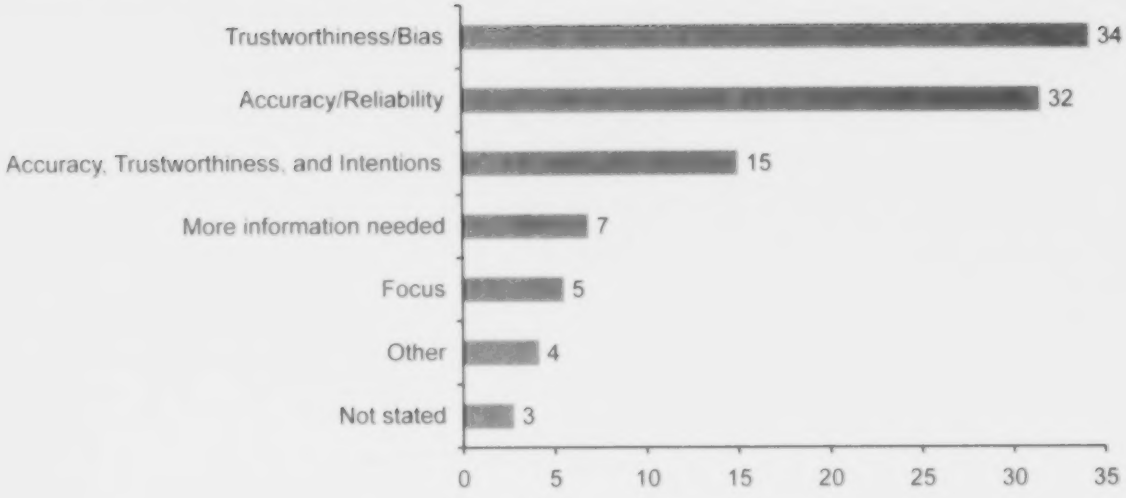
Region

Responses from Regina (100%, n=10), Swift Current (71%, n=15), Yorkton (70%, n=7), and Estevan (60%, n=3) were more likely to report that the quality of information provided by presenters was inadequate, while those from La Ronge (40%, n=2), North Battleford (100%, n=2) and Saskatoon (56%, n=9) were more likely to say that the quality of information provided by participants was inadequate. Responses from La Ronge (40%, n=2) and Estevan (20%, n=1) were more likely to say that the quality of information provided by both participants and presenters was not adequate for the purposes of the people participating in the public meetings.

Prince Albert responses (14%, n=1) were more likely to say that the quality of information provided by presenters was adequate, while Lloydminster (50%, n=1) and Saskatoon (6%, n=1) were more likely to say that the quality of information provided by participants was adequate.

There were a number of reasons given for why the quality of information provided by presenters and participants was inadequate (Figure 72). One-third (34%, n=25) felt that the information provided was not trustworthy or was biased in some way, while another one-third (32%, n=23) pointed to the accuracy and reliability of the information provided. Fifteen per cent (n=11) said that it was a combination of accuracy, trustworthiness or bias, and the intentions behind the information being presented. Another 7% (n=5) said that more information was needed, while 5% (n=4) pointed to the focus of the discussion, remarking that it was too limited because of the emphasis on uranium.

Figure 72: Concerns about Quality of Information Provided by Presenters and Participants at the Public Meetings (% of responses)



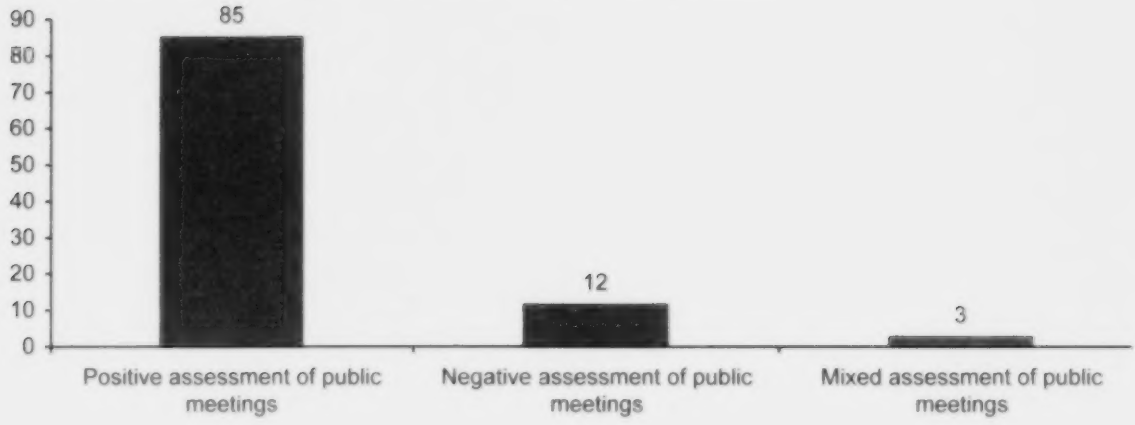
Region

Responses from La Ronge (100%, n=3), Saskatoon (54%, n=8), and Estevan (50%, n=2) were more likely to point to accuracy and reliability of the information provided in the public meetings as being problematic, while those from Lloydminster (100%, n=1), North Battleford (100%, n=2), Regina (70%, n=7), and Estevan (50%, n=2) pointed to trustworthiness and bias in the information. Responses from Swift Current (40%, n=8) and Regina (20%, n=2) were more likely to talk about intentions or objectives of the meetings, along with the accuracy and trustworthiness of the information presented, while those from Prince Albert (14%, n=1) and Yorkton (40%, n=4) were more likely to point to the need for more information. Responses from Saskatoon (7%, n=1) and Swift Current (15%, n=3) were more likely than the others to point to the focus of the information being provided.

12.8 Overall Assessment of Public Meetings

Thirty-four responses addressed the overall experience of the public meetings (Figure 73). Of those responses, 85% (n=29) rated the experience as positive, while 12% (n=4) said that it was negative. Three per cent (n=1) provided a mixed rating overall.

Figure 73: Overall Assessment of Public Meetings (% of responses)

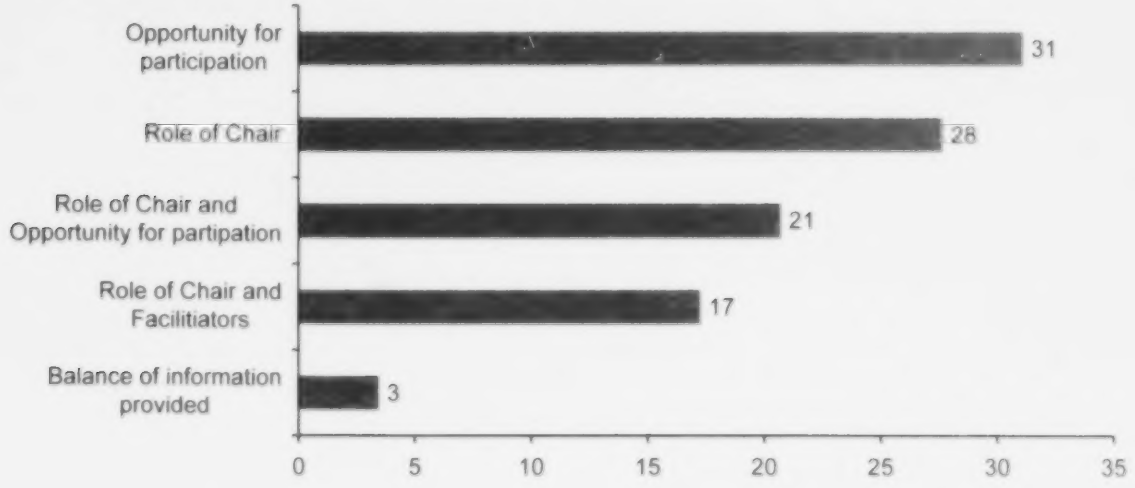


Region

Responses from Lloydminster (100%, n=1), North Battleford (100%, n=1), Saskatoon (100%, n=10) and Yorkton (100%, n=1) were more likely than those from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Prince Albert (67%, n=2), Yorkton (50%, n=1), Regina (86%, n=6), and Swift Current (50%, n=1) to rate their experiences as positive. Responses from La Ronge (50%, n=1), Prince Albert (33%, n=1), Regina (14%, n=1), and Swift Current (50%, n=1) were more likely to rate their experiences as negative than responses from the other regions.

Of those responses rating their assessment of the public meetings as positive, nearly one-third (31%, n=9) referred to the opportunity for participation they had during the meetings (Figure 74). Twenty-eight per cent (n=8) talked about the role of the Chair being important for their positive experience. Another 20% (n=6) referred to both the Chair and the opportunity for participation. The role of the Chair was clearly significant for positive responses; another 17% (n=5) pointed to the Chair's role in the public meeting process and the performance of the facilitators in making the public meetings a positive experience. Finally, a small percentage (3%, n=1) referred to the balance of the information provided as being a positive element of the public meetings.

Figure 74: Reasons for Positive Assessment of the Public Meetings (% of responses)



Region
Responses from Saskatoon (40%, n=4) and Regina (67%, n=4) were more likely than those from the other communities to indicate that the role of the Chair contributed to their positive experience at the public meetings. Those from Lloydminster (100%, n=1), Yorkton (100%, n=1), and Regina (33%, n=2) were more likely to point to the opportunity for participation as being a positive contributor, while those from La Ronge (100%, n=1) pointed to the balanced information provided. Responses from Prince Albert (50%, n=1), Saskatoon (20%, n=2), and North Battleford (100%, n=1) talked about the role of the Chair and of the facilitators in making the meetings a positive experience, while those from Prince Albert (50%, n=1) and Swift Current (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to the role of the Chair in conjunction with the opportunity for participation.

Of those responses assessing the public meeting experience as a negative one, three-quarters (75%, n=3) said that they would have liked a different experience with the Chair and facilitators. One-quarter (25%, n=1) of the negative responses referred to the balance of information provided.

12.9 Summary

While the consultation process was designed to focus on what people had to say about the UDP Report, people participating in the consultation process also expressed their opinions about the process itself.

Most of those commenting on the process felt that it was not adequate, that it was too short, did not provide enough time to prepare. In addition, some felt it did not provide government with a strong enough mandate to make a decision about uranium development or that it did not have enough people participating in the process. Moreover, some believed that more consultation was needed and that the focus of the consultation – the UDP Report – was not the right one.

Some were concerned that the consultation process would have no impact on government decision-making around uranium development. Most who commented on the impact of the consultation process indicated that the process would not matter because government had already chosen a direction.

There were some concerns about the public participation of Aboriginal peoples in the consultation process as well. As such, some responses emphasized the need for government to consult through the legal Duty to Consult. Others were concerned about the involvement of stakeholders during the process, including who would be defined as a stakeholder.

Many commented on the way that the public meetings operated. Some wanted more information at the meetings, including greater access to experts including members of the UDP panel, while others wanted to be able to better understand the presented information. Others identified that the information presented by both the presenters and the participants was not adequate for their needs: they did not trust it, thought it was inaccurate or biased, or that the discussion was not focused on the right areas.

A small number of responses focused on the overall experience with the public meetings. The majority responded positively – largely due to their positive assessment of being able to participate and their experiences with the facilitators and the Chair.

Moving Forward on Energy Policy

Participants in the consultation process identified a number of general principles or understandings that they wanted government to consider when moving forward on energy policy. They talked about the Duty to Consult with First Nations and Métis people; energy conservation; the approach government should take when considering alternatives, including looking at what other jurisdictions are doing and the role of SaskPower in future power generation and distribution.

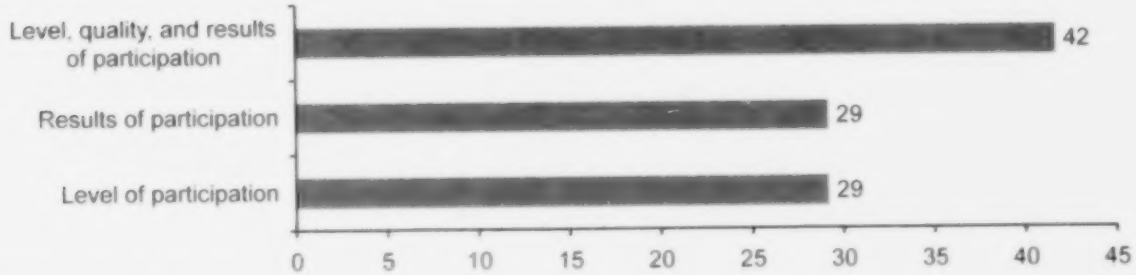
Theme 13: Public Concerns about the Involvement and Public Participation of First Nations and Métis, and the Duty to Consult

People expressed concern about the public participation of First Nations and Métis people in the public consultation process.

13.1 Public Participation of First Nations Leaders and People

Of those expressing concern about the public participation of First Nations people in the public consultation process, nearly half (42%, n=10) said that that they were concerned about the level, quality, and results of participation of First Nations people, as shown in Figure 75. For these responses, the level of participation in the public process was inadequate, the quality of the participation was not satisfactory, and the results did not reflect true participation. For another 29% (n=7) of responses, the results of the public participation alone were problematic. Yet another 29% (n=7) of responses indicated that the level of public participation by First Nations people was not adequate and needed improvement.

Figure 75: Why Concerns about Public Participation of First Nations Leaders and People (% of responses)



Region

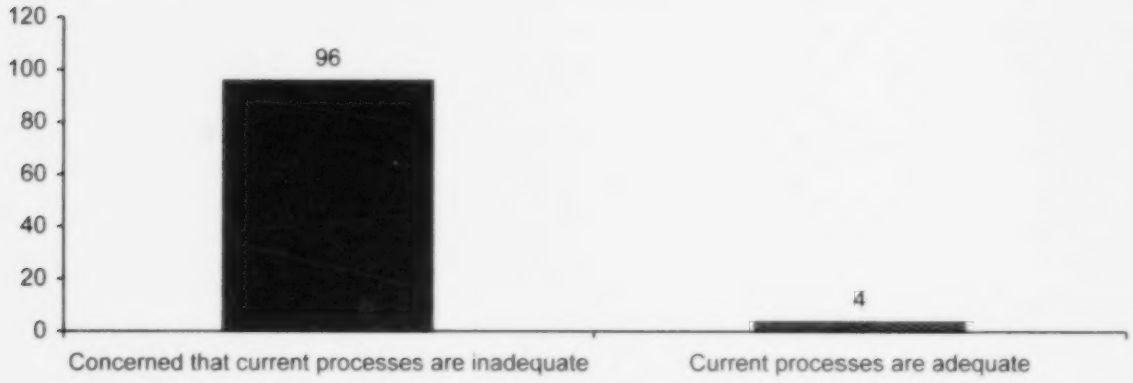
Responses from Saskatoon (67%, n=2), Prince Albert (60%, n=3), and Yorkton (67%, n=2) were more likely to emphasize concerns about the level, quality, and results of public participation in the public consultation process with First Nations leaders and communities, while those from Lloydminster (100%, n=1), Saskatoon (33%, n=1), Estevan (100%, n=1), and Regina (33%, n=2) were more likely to point to the results of public participation as being problematic. Responses from Prince Albert (40%, n=2), Yorkton (33%, n=1), and Regina (50%, n=3) were more likely to talk about the level of public participation as a concern.

13.2 Duty to Consult and First Nations

Duty to Consult is a vital concern for people in Saskatchewan when it comes to resource management and Treaty rights. During the public consultation process, I heard from four main groups of people about its significance: people in the Athabasca Basin, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and members of the public.

Twenty-five responses from members of the public in Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, and Estevan spoke directly to the importance of the Duty to Consult with First Nations people around policies and directions that would directly impact them, their lands, and their treaty rights, as shown in Figure 76. Of those responses, 96% (n=24) expressed concern that current processes around the Duty to Consult are not adequate in the province, while a small percent (4%, n=1) said that the current processes are adequate to operate as a framework for further targeted consultation.

Figure 76: Duty to Consult First Nations (% of responses)



13.3 Consultation and Métis People

Responses also dealt with the need for the engagement of Métis people as members of the public and the Crown's duty to consult with Métis people.

Three responses pointed to the inadequacy of current discussions with Métis leaders and communities around uranium development. All three emphasized the level of engagement – that government should provide support for capacity building to enable the Métis to fully participate in future duty to consult consultations, particularly around resource development affecting Métis people.

13.4 Summary

Four main groups of people spoke about the importance of the legal Duty to Consult during the consultation process: people in the Athabasca Basin, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and members of the public.

Most argued that, in their capacity as members of the public, First Nations and Métis people need to be part of public consultation processes and current processes around consultation are not adequate. They indicated more must be done to ensure that the level of engagement, the results of consultation, and the quality of consultation are strong. They reinforced the Crown's duty to consult and the need for separate First Nations and Métis consultation processes.

Theme 14: Energy Needs and Conservation

One of the assumptions of the UDP Report is that Saskatchewan's power needs will continue to grow. Throughout the province, some people said that they expected power needs to grow, and expressed concerns about the province's ability to meet those needs in the future using current methods of production. Some people – particularly in the North – noted that current energy needs were not met consistently for them now, without even considering the future.

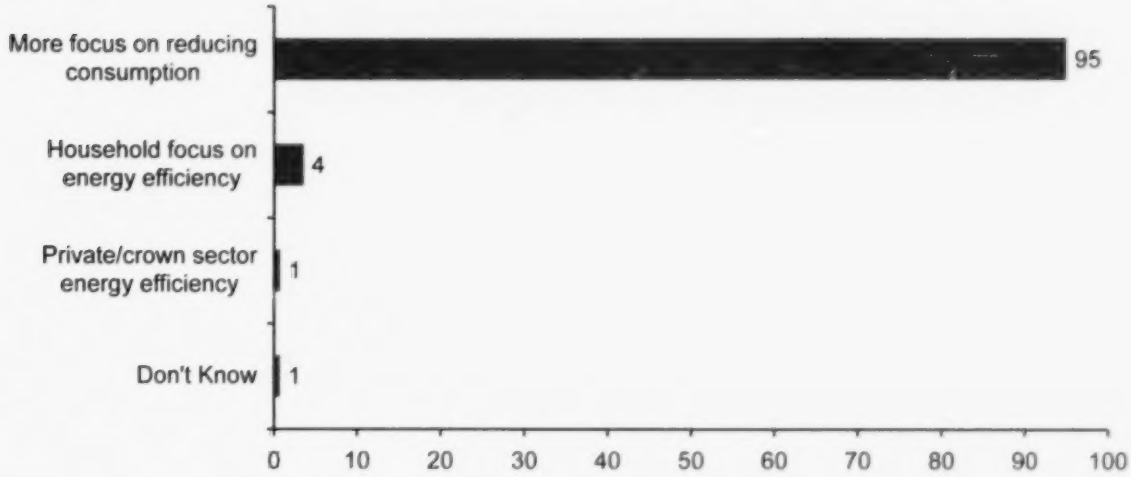
However, many people questioned this assumption of increased energy needs for the future. They noted that the province's population has not grown substantially and that these energy projections do not take energy conservation (or demand-side management) into account. They argued that energy conservation should be a priority when considering future needs.

14.1 Energy Efficiency and Conservation

About 140 responses dealt specifically with the need to deal with energy efficiency and conservation (see Figure 77). Almost all – 95% (n=134) – of the responses emphasized the need for the government and Saskatchewan people to increase the focus on reducing energy consumption. The remaining responses spoke to the need for households to focus on energy efficiency or consumption (4%, n=5) and energy efficiencies in the Crown sector or in the private sector, among business and industry (1%, n=1). A small percentage of responses spoke to needing more information, wanting to know what future energy requirements might be, and how those requirements would be established.

Region
More responses from Lloydminster (100%, n=11), North Battleford (100%, n=3), Yorkton (100%, n=3), Estevan (100%, n=4), Prince Albert (100%, n=16), and Saskatoon (97%, n=35) than responses from Regina (86%, n=30) or Swift Current (83%, n=5) focused on the need to place more emphasis on reducing consumption. Responses from Regina (11%, n=4) were more likely to mention the need to have a focus on household energy efficiency, while responses from Regina (93%, n=1) and Swift Current (17%, n=1) were more likely to emphasize the need for energy efficiency in the crown sector and in industry.

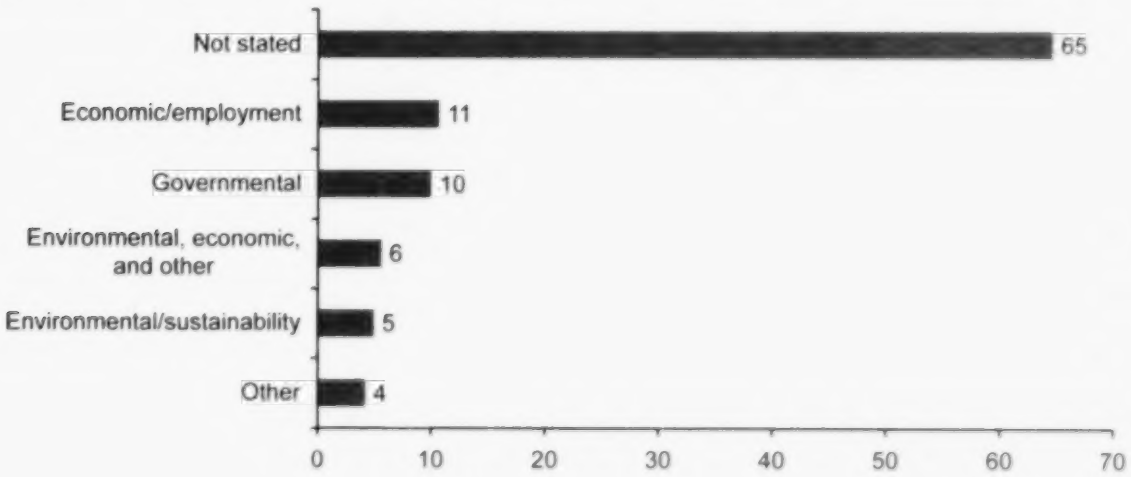
Figure 77: Focus on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (% of responses)



While most responses did not provide a specific rationale for why it was important to increase the focus on energy efficiency and conservation (65%, n=91), some did (Figure 78). Over one in ten (11%, n=15) focused on economic or employment factors, that energy efficiency would be financially sound for the province and for individual households. Implementing processes and technology designed to support energy conservation would help to support employment as well as making economic sense.

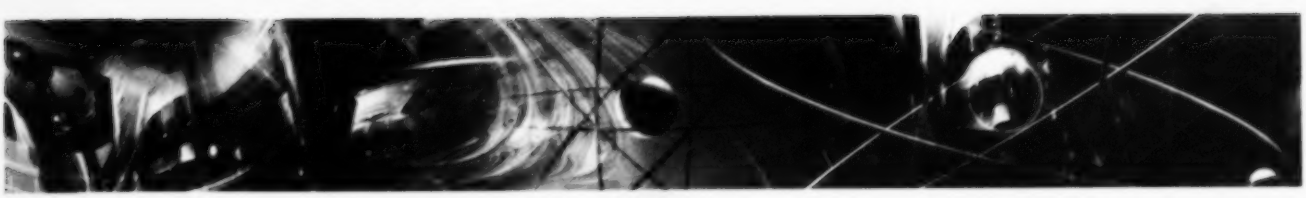
Another 10% (n=14) pointed to governmental involvement in moving toward conservation: government could create programming and provide incentives for people – and businesses – to work on energy conservation themselves. Five per cent (n=7) of responses pointed to environmental and sustainability reasons for conservation, while another 6% (n=8) emphasized a combination of environmental, economic, and other reasons for embracing conservation.

Figure 78: Why Focus on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (% of responses)



14.2 Summary

Some people across the province highlighted the importance of growing energy needs. However, many participants in the consultation process questioned whether power consumption in the province would increase, particularly if Saskatchewan focuses more greatly on energy efficiency and conservation. Those favouring conservation focused on increasing the focus on household efficiency and consumption, as well as moving toward greater energy efficiencies in the Crown and private sectors. Energy efficiency was thought to be good economically for the province and for individual households, less expensive for government, as well as being better for the environment.



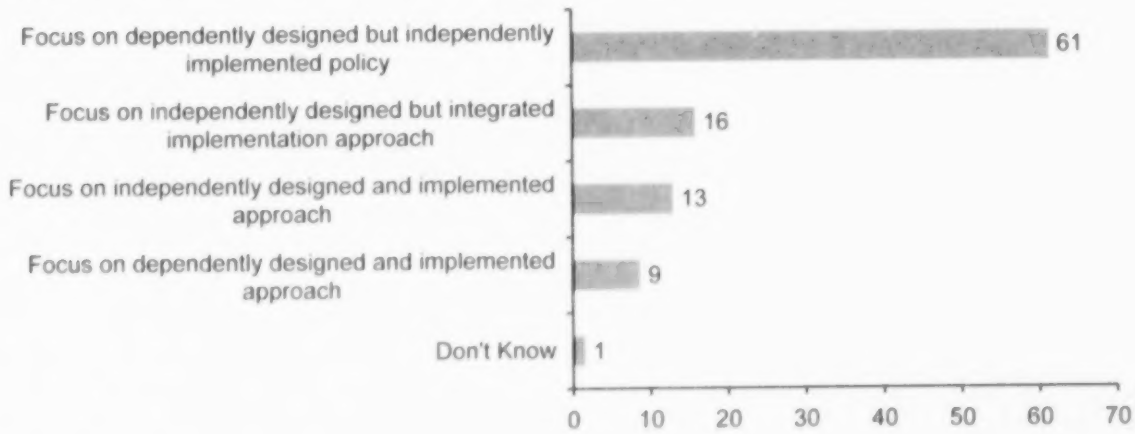
Theme 15: Moving Forward

15.1 Saskatchewan Policy Approach

A number of responses (n=70) mentioned the way that people want government to move forward in terms of energy policy making (Figure 79). Over half (61%, n=43) said that they want to see policy that reflects the experiences of other jurisdictions (such as Germany, Japan, the United States) but that Saskatchewan should implement independently. This means that these responses said that Saskatchewan could – and should – have an independent energy production system. The next largest group (16%, n=11) suggested that Saskatchewan move forward with an energy system that is independently designed in order to reflect the needs of Saskatchewan people, while working to integrate the energy system with other jurisdictions, such as Manitoba or Alberta.

Another group (13%, n=9) wanted to see Saskatchewan take an approach that was independently designed, reflecting Saskatchewan's needs, but that was implemented independently so that Saskatchewan would not have to rely on – or provide energy to – any other jurisdiction. Finally, 9% (n=6) of responses pointed to an approach that learned from other jurisdictions and worked with other jurisdictions to implement a new or revised energy system.

Figure 79: Saskatchewan Policy Approach (% of responses)

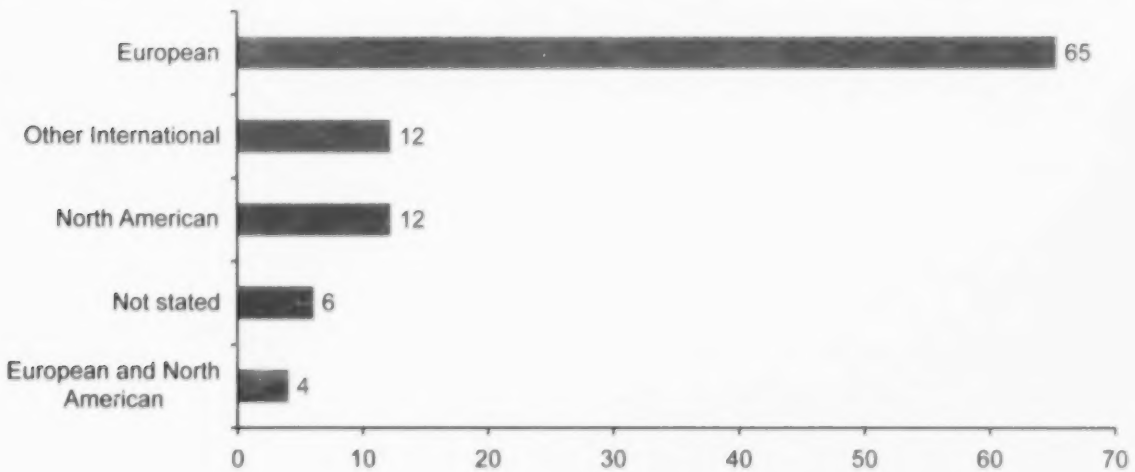


Region

Responses from Yorkton (67%, n=4), Prince Albert (90%, n=9), and Saskatoon (67%, n=8) were more likely than those from Lloydminster, North Battleford, Regina, Estevan, or Swift Current to support a dependently designed policy that would be independently implemented. Further, those from Yorkton (17%, n=1), Regina (11%, n=2), Prince Albert (10%, n=1), and Saskatoon (17%, n=2) were more likely than the others to want to focus on a dependently designed policy that would be implemented in an integrated way. Responses from Lloydminster (50%, n=1), North Battleford (n=14%, n=1), Yorkton (17%, n=1), and Swift Current (33%, n=1) were more likely to suggest that Saskatchewan focus on an independently designed and independently implemented approach, while those from North Battleford (86%, n=6) and Regina (21%, n=4) favoured an independently designed and integrated approach to energy production and delivery.

Of those responses focusing on having Saskatchewan energy policy dependently designed, meaning that the province should look to other jurisdictions, two-thirds (65%, n=32) said Saskatchewan should look to the European states for ideas, as seen in Figure 80. Twelve per cent (n=6) pointed to other countries, including less developed states that might have innovative ideas about energy. Another 12% (n=6) said that North American jurisdictions, including the United States and various provinces, would provide useful information as well. Another 4% (n=2) said that European and North American jurisdictions would both have something to offer Saskatchewan in this respect.

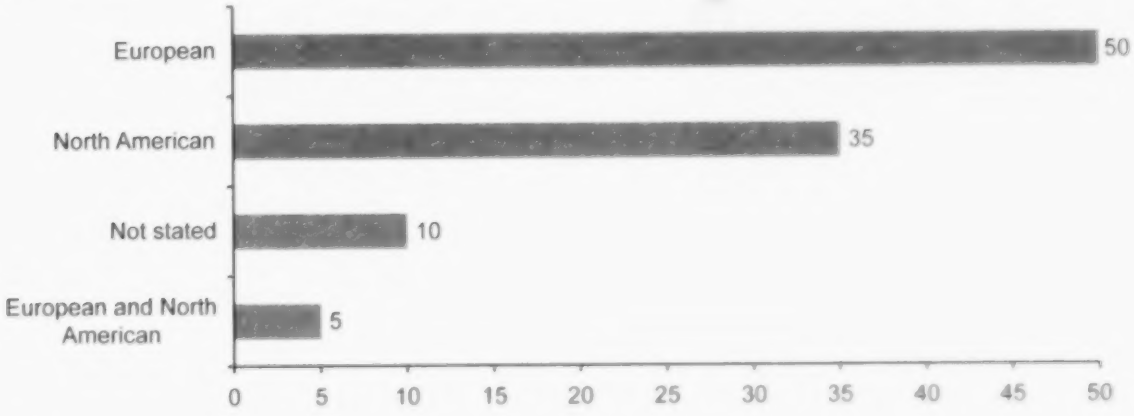
When thinking about how power could best be provided for Saskatchewan, many noted that other jurisdictions in Canada and internationally were backing away from nuclear power. They said that it was necessary to see what other jurisdictions were doing and asked whether anyone else was doing research on Saskatchewan and its power needs. Others said that power generation and management is larger than just one province, implying that Saskatchewan should look into working with other provinces.



Region
Responses from Swift Current (100%, n=1), Prince Albert (90%, n=9), and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely to suggest that Saskatchewan could learn from the European countries innovations, while Saskatoon (20%, n=2) and Yorkton (20%, n=1) were more likely to point to North American jurisdictions. Lloydminster (100%, n=1), Yorkton (20%, n=1) and Regina (23%, n=3) responses pointed to other non-European countries as a source of information, while those from Saskatoon (20%, n=2) said that European and North American jurisdictions could provide useful information for energy policy development.

Of those responses which focused on the need to ensure a Saskatchewan energy policy was designed with Saskatchewan's needs in mind, half (50%, n=10) pointed to the differences between the European context and the Saskatchewan context, making it more difficult to compare the two systems (Figure 81). One-third (35%, n=7) said that Saskatchewan should proceed with a policy that meets its needs, but that it may be possible to work with other provinces or states within North America when integrating the energy system. A small percentage (5%, n=1) pointed to potential partnerships or working arrangements with European and North American jurisdictions.

Figure 81: Saskatchewan Policy Approach: Independently Designed (% of responses)



Region
Of those responses identifying that a Saskatchewan policy approach should be independently designed, Saskatoon (50%, n=1), Swift Current (100%, n=1) and Yorkton (17%, n=1) were more likely to say that Saskatchewan should proceed with a policy that meets its needs, but that it may be possible to work with other provinces or states within North America in order to integrate the energy system. Those in North Battleford (86%, n=6) and Regina (67%, n=4) were more likely to note that there were strong differences between the European context and the Saskatchewan context, making the circumstances for energy production difficult to compare.

15.2 Provincial Competitiveness

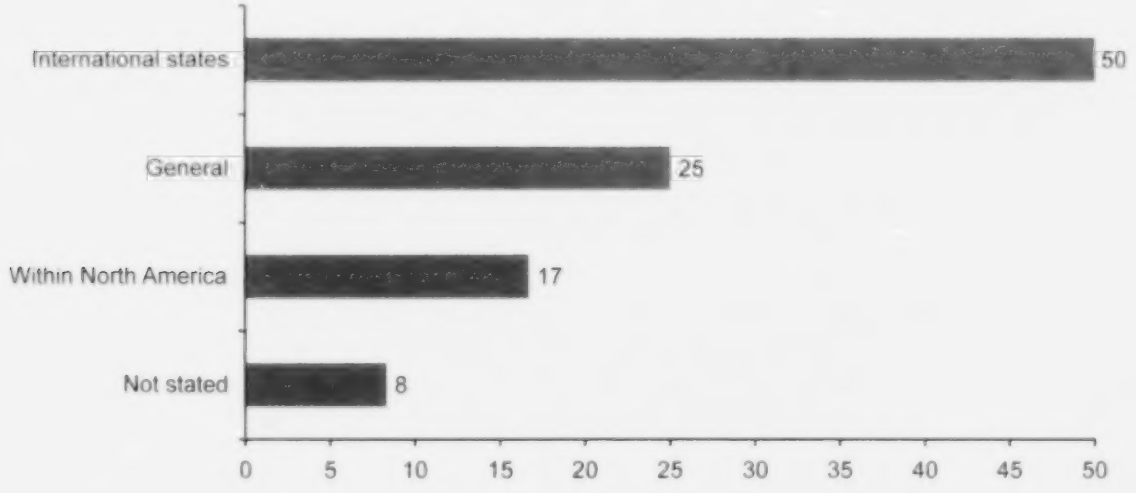
A small group of responses (n=16) referred to provincial competitiveness in the uranium industry (see Figure 82). Three-quarters (75%, n=12) expressed concern about the province's competitiveness in the energy sector, whether that was concerning uranium development and nuclear power or concerning alternative energy sources. Nineteen per cent (n=3) of responses, speaking about provincial competitiveness, were not concerned about the province remaining competitive in the energy sector.

Responses from Regina (100%, n=2) and Estevan (100%, n=1) were more likely to point to the need to be competitive, while those from Yorkton (50%, n=1) and Saskatoon (25%, n=1) were more likely than Prince Albert, Regina, and Estevan to say that they were not concerned about the province being competitive in this area.

Figure 82: Concern about Provincial Competitiveness (% of responses)

Of those responses expressing concern about provincial competitiveness, half (50%, n=6) referred to maintaining competitiveness with international states, one-quarter (25%, n=3) wanted to maintain competitiveness in general, and 17% (n=2) were concerned about competitiveness with other provinces and states in North America (Figure 83). Responses from Regina (100%, n=2) were more likely to be concerned about competitiveness with international states, while those from Prince Albert (50%, n=1) and Saskatoon (33%, n=1) were more likely than those from Estevan, Yorkton, and Regina to express concern about competitiveness within North America. Finally, responses from Saskatoon (33%, n=1), Estevan (100%, n=1), and Yorkton (100%, n=1) were more likely than the others to indicate that they were concerned about provincial competitiveness in general.

Figure 83: Why Concerned about Provincial Competitiveness (% of responses)

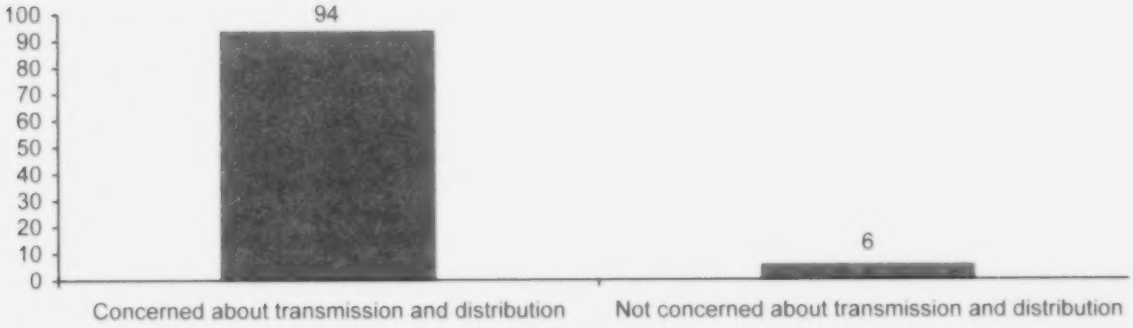


Responses not concerned about provincial competitiveness (from Saskatoon and Yorkton) made references to all three groups evenly: international states, general, and within North America. Most of these responses indicated that Saskatchewan was already competitive, that the province does not need to be more competitive in this area.

15.3 Infrastructure: Transmission and Distribution of Power

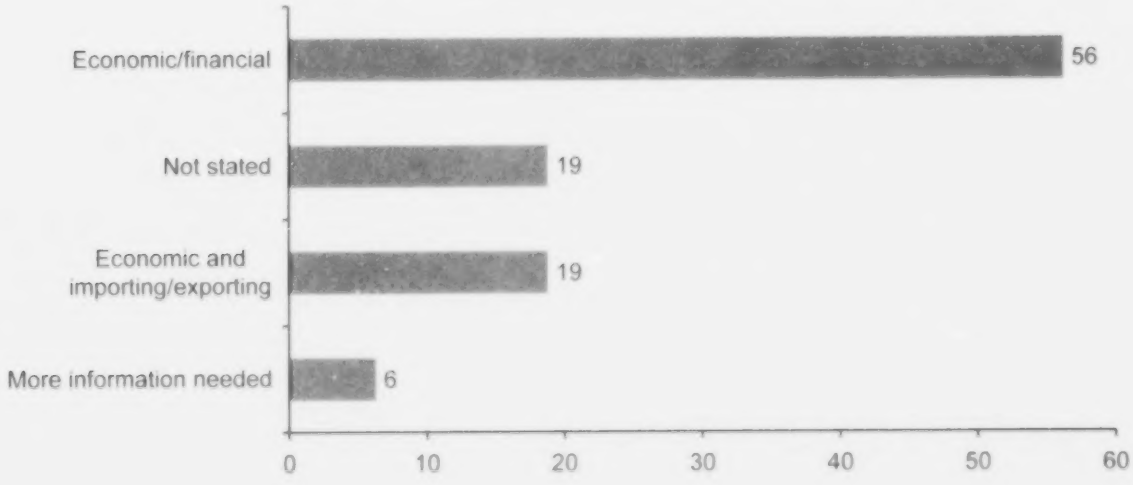
A small number of responses (n=34) from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, and Estevan pointed to issues around transmission and distribution of energy between provinces. Of those, 94% (n=) said that they were concerned about transmission and distribution, while 6% (n=) were not concerned, as shown in Figure 84. Slightly fewer responses from Regina and Estevan were concerned about the transmission and distribution of power.

Figure 84: Concern about Transmission and Distribution of Power (% of responses)



As shown in Figure 85, various reasons were provided to explain concern about the transmission and distribution of power. In fact, over half (56%, n=18) pointed to economic or financial reasons for being concerned about energy transmission and distribution within Saskatchewan as well as between provinces or jurisdictions. Some were concerned about the costs associated with new forms of energy within the province. An additional 19% (n=6) did not state their reasons, followed by 19% (n=6) of responses emphasizing a combination of economic and importing/exporting-related factors for why they were concerned about the transmission and distribution of energy. Many argued that Saskatchewan could not benefit if it was producing energy to supply to other jurisdictions, particularly to Alberta. Finally, 6% (n=2) indicated that they needed more information.

Figure 85: Why Concerned about Transmission and Distribution of Energy (% of responses)



Region
There were some small regional differences when it came to concerns about the transmission and distribution of energy. Responses from Prince Albert (67%, n=4), Regina (64%, n=7), and Swift Current (67%, n=2) expressed more concern about economic and financial issues than responses from the other regions. On the other hand, those from Lloydminster (50%, n=1), Saskatoon (50%, n=2), and Swift Current (33%, n=1) were more likely to point to a combination of economic and importing/exporting reasons for their concern about the transmission and distribution of energy. Finally, responses from North Battleford (100%, n=1) and Regina (9%, n=1) were more likely to indicate that they needed more information.

15.4 Summary

Participants in the consultation process addressed three main areas that they wanted considered when it came to Saskatchewan's energy policy approach. Most of those addressing this question wanted to see Saskatchewan developing policy that reflected the experiences of other jurisdictions, but that ensured Saskatchewan could remain independent in its energy production and distribution. Others favoured a combination of working together with other jurisdictions, either to develop policy or to implement power generation partnerships.

A small group of people were concerned about Saskatchewan maintaining its competitiveness in the energy sector. They wanted to see Saskatchewan be competitive with international states and with other provinces.

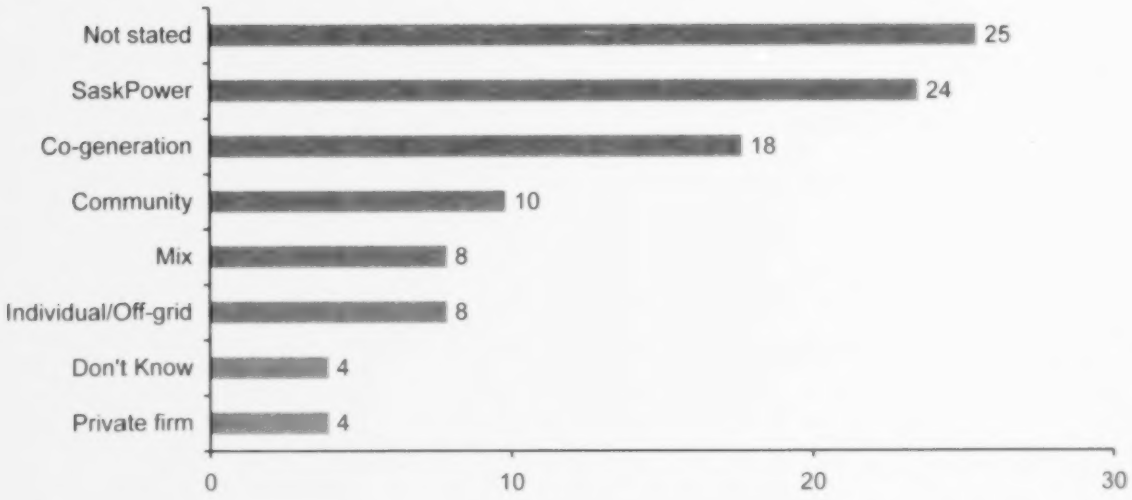
Another small group pointed to concerns with infrastructure and how that infrastructure would enable power distribution both within the province and between provinces. Concerns focused on costs, the ability to successfully import and/or export excess power, and the need to have more information about infrastructure.

Theme 16: Delivering Energy for the Province

16.1 Who Will Deliver Energy?

Fifty-one responses from Saskatchewan people spoke to who should provide energy for the province, as shown in Figure 86. Many emphasized that there is a continuing role for SaskPower, with 24% (n=12) of responses indicating so. Another 18% (n=9) suggested that co-generation – or the involvement of SaskPower and individuals – should be an option. Ten per cent (n=5) pointed to community-based power generation and delivery, including references to First Nations communities and rural areas. Eight per cent (n=4) suggested a mix of delivery options, while another 8% (n=4) wanted energy delivery to allow for people to be able to be self-sufficient and off the grid. 4% (n=2) of responses indicated that a private firm would be the preferred method of delivering power to the province's people.

Figure 86: Power Delivery for the Province (% of responses)

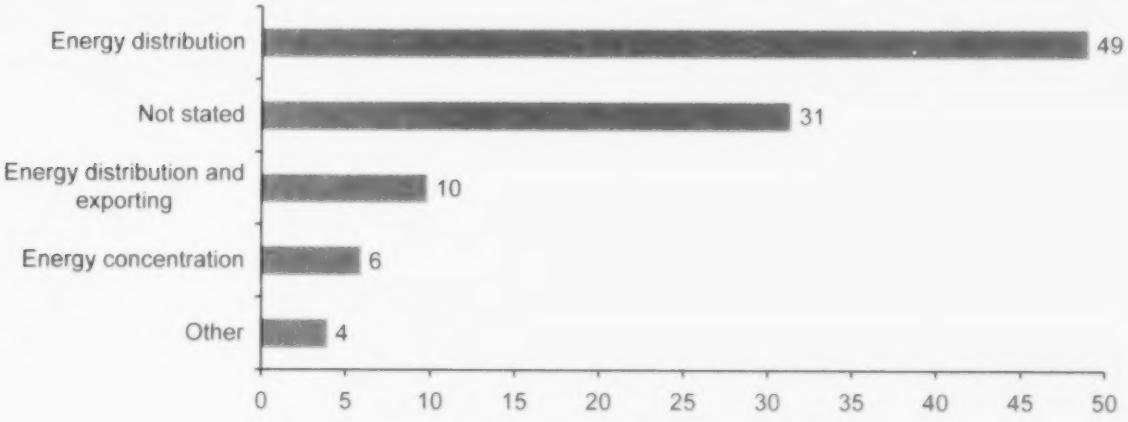


Region

Responses from Lloydminster (100%, n=2), Prince Albert (31%, n=4), North Battleford (50%, n=1), Swift Current (100%, n=1), and Estevan (50%, n=1) were more likely to support SaskPower's role in power delivery for the province than responses from Saskatoon, Yorkton, or Regina, while those from Saskatoon (44%, n=4) and Estevan (50%, n=1) were more likely to support co-generation. Saskatoon (11%, n-=1) and Regina (23%, n=3) were more likely than the other regions to point to the potential for community-based power delivery, and North Battleford (50%, n=1) and Yorkton (25%, n=1) pointed to a mix of sources for power delivery. Those who were more likely to identify the option of individual or off-grid production included Saskatoon (11%, n=1) and Yorkton (50%, n=2). Yorkton (25%, n=1) and Regina (8%, n=1) were slightly more likely to identify the potential for a private firm to deliver power to the province.

Overall, the responses identifying who they would want managing and doing their energy distribution identified a few reasons (Figure 87): energy distribution (49%, n=25), or the ability to ensure that energy got to every part of the province that needed it and concerns this might not happen without the right infrastructure; energy distribution and exporting (31%, n=16), or the ability to distribute energy throughout the province and have the capacity to provide it to others outside the province; and energy concentration (6%, n=3), or the ability to either make use of a concentrated energy source or the need to avoid too much concentration in energy provision.

Figure 87: Reasons for Preferred Power Delivery in the Province (% of responses)



Region

Responses from Lloydminster (50%, n=1), Yorkton (50%, n=2), Regina (62%, n=8), Estevan (50%, n=1), and Saskatoon (56%, n=5) were more likely than those from North Battleford, Prince Albert, or Swift Current to provide reasons for energy distribution to support their chosen method of energy delivery. While responses from Prince Albert (39%, n=5) were more likely to address energy distribution and exporting together, those from Regina (8%, n=1), Prince Albert (8%, n=1) and Saskatoon (11%, n=1) were more likely to mention energy concentration.

16.2 Summary

Some people addressed the question of who should provide energy for the province in the future. Many pointed to a continuing role for SaskPower, while others said that there are other options – including co-generation and community-based power generation. A small group emphasized a mix of options, a way of delivering power that would enable people to be self-sufficient and off-grid if they wanted, or the involvement of a private firm.

Overall, people wanted to ensure that energy could get to every part of the province safely, at the best price possible, and in a sustainable way.

Recommendations

The Uranium Development Partnership was mandated to identify, evaluate and make recommendations on Saskatchewan-based value added opportunities to further develop our uranium industry.[7] As such, the UDP Report was limited to a discussion of the uranium value chain and did not explore power generation options beyond the potential for nuclear power.

Early in the consultation process, as the previous section of this report shows, it became clear that people are particularly interested in discussing the power needs of the province and options that respond to this need in a safe, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable way. Consequently, while all elements of the UDP report received comment, the report itself was not always the focus of discussion.

While my mandate does not include making recommendations about further action regarding uranium industry development, I am supposed to make recommendations regarding further public consultations and/or the provision of further information to the public. Consistent with what I heard, my recommendations speak to what I see as the primary information needs of the public, including mechanisms for ensuring public access to this information.

Power Generation

With some exceptions, those consulted express significant opposition to nuclear power generation primarily due to concerns about the environmental impacts, health and safety of the public, potential cost and management of waste. Furthermore, there is considerable interest in alternative energies, in particular, wind and solar. Renewable energy sources are seen as more financially feasible, with few health and safety risks, and of potential benefit to the economy in terms of job creation.

Many people express frustration with the UDP Report's limited mandate and wonder why Government started with a nuclear discussion rather than examining all the options for power generation in the province. There is significant support for expanded research and development in the area of alternate energy sources and for a study, similar to the UDP, on the potential for renewables.

People want to know what the power needs of the future will be and what the best options, or mix of options, are for responding.

There was very little discussion about the potential implications of a carbon tax or cap and trade and the possible increased cost to the consumer, which could result if the province continues to burn coal as its primary power source.

Even with an increased focus on conservation, the province's power needs are likely to grow and with the international focus on climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions. As such, it is unlikely the province can continue with a status quo approach to power generation.

[7] Capturing the full potential of the uranium value chain in Saskatchewan, Uranium Development Partnership, March 31, 2009, p. i.

New generation, regardless of type, requires advanced planning. Saskatchewan needs to position itself to proactively make decisions for our future. People and governments need comparable, accurate, detailed information about the options, costs and risks.

The link between nuclear power generation and waste management is an important one for participants in the public consultation process.

People link discussion of power generation with waste management, saying that the two must be considered together. Health, safety, environmental, and cost concerns about nuclear power generation are often extended to nuclear waste as well. Thus, any information provided on power generation should also include information about managing the resulting waste.

Recommendation 1

I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan develop a consolidated report on all power generation options and make this report available to the public. This report should:

- inform the public about the current and projected power needs of the province;
- outline the power generation options being explored in other jurisdictions including Canada, Europe and the United States;
- outline options for future power generation including:
  - expanded use of renewables, with particular emphasis on wind and solar, but also hydro, geo-thermal, bio-mass and any other options;
  - expansion of natural gas and polygeneration, clean coal and carbon capture and sequestration;
  - nuclear power generation;
  - increased energy conservation efforts; and
  - continued use of coal.
- document the health, safety, environmental and economic considerations for each of the above options;
- outline the costs associated with each of the options including initial capital investment, transmission costs, operating costs, the cost of storage for renewable sources such as solar or wind; costs associated with nuclear waste; and decommissioning costs;
- provide a comparable projection of the estimated costs to the consumer for each of the options;
- include a potential delivery discussion for each of the options including an expanded role for SaskPower and/or public-private partnerships; and
- explain the current global discussion regarding carbon taxation, cap and trade, and the implications of both.

Consistent with its mandate, SaskPower has been monitoring developments in other jurisdictions and assessing the potential for application to Saskatchewan. SaskPower provided information on its supply plan and future generation needs to the Uranium Development Partnership and as part of the public consultation process. SaskPower has acknowledged it has been exploring options and the need to make crucial decisions on future supply.

Recommendation 2

I recommend SaskPower publicly release any existing analyses it has already undertaken regarding provincial power needs, the current state of its infrastructure, and future options for response.

Recognizing that there are limitations to what can be released publicly because of confidentiality and contractual obligations, and knowing that much technical information around power is difficult for non-experts to understand, this information should be in a format easily accessible to the public.

Health

Across Saskatchewan, people express significant concern for the health of the population in the event of nuclear development. In particular, they are concerned about the health of children and industry workers and the need to protect future generations.

Much information on health impacts was presented, many different views were expressed, and health studies conducted in Germany were frequently cited with differing interpretations of the findings.

Recommendation 3

I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan commission a study to review the current research on the health impacts of nuclear power and that this study, and a publicly consumable summary version, be publicly released.

Medical Isotopes

The production of medical isotopes is very topical due to shut down of the Chalk River facility in Ontario and the consequent worldwide shortage. Here in Saskatchewan, the provincial government and the University of Saskatchewan have developed and submitted a proposal to the Government of Canada's Expert Review Panel to establish the Canadian Neutron Source to produce medical isotopes, act as a research reactor and facilitate establishment of a national academic centre for nuclear research and development.

The public consultation process reveals that people are split on this issue with some people indicating Saskatchewan should go ahead and produce medical isotopes and others being opposed. Some argue that medical isotopes can be produced without a nuclear reactor, or without nuclear fission.

This area is currently the subject of considerable research and development and there are both proven technologies and emerging ones. Clearly, the Government of Saskatchewan is interested in establishing the Canadian Neutron Source in Saskatoon and is awaiting feedback on its proposal to the federal government. There is a pressing need to enhance the public's understanding of isotope production and its use in health care. People also need to understand the nature of the Saskatchewan proposal.

Recommendation 4

I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan initiate a public information campaign regarding the production and use of medical isotopes. Information should answer the following questions:

- What are medical isotopes and what are they used for?
- How are they made?
- Who produces isotopes, what is their production status, what technology are they using and how much do they cost?
- What type of imaging technology is required in medical facilities, what is the availability of such technology and what are the costs?
- What is proven technology and what is emerging?
- What is the proposed Canadian Neutron Source, what will it produce, what technology will it use, what will it cost, and how is it similar or different from proposals submitted by other jurisdictions?

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) takes the position that any consideration of any aspect of the uranium value chain triggers the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate First Nations, which must occur at the strategic planning stage before any decisions are made, recognizing that public and stakeholder consultation processes are insufficient to discharge the Crown's duty to consult and uphold Crown honor.

Recommendation 5: First Nations

I recommend that a separate First Nations consultation process be established for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report, in accordance with the unified *First Nations Strategy on Consultation, Accommodation and Resource Revenue Sharing*.

The Athabasca Denesuline First Nations indicated in the Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Wollaston Lake meetings their opposition to any further uranium industrial development until the provincial government reaches accommodation and reconciliation with the Athabasca Region respecting treaty and Aboriginal rights and land, water, and resource management issues.

Recommendation 6: Athabasca Basin

I recommend a First Nations consultation process be established in the Athabasca Basin for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report, in accordance with the Athabasca Regional Government's *An Agreement Respecting: a Protocol Establishing the Framework for the Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodate and A Resource Development Project Review and Approval Process*.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan takes the position that any consideration of any aspect of the uranium value chain triggers the Crown's legal duty to consult.

Recommendation 7: Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

I recommend that a separate Métis consultation process be established for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report.

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[9]Hansard, Government of Saskatchewan, 26th Legislature, April 29, 2009.

Need for More, Better Information

At every meeting, I was told more information is needed in a variety of formats, and from a variety of trustworthy sources, so people and governments can formulate options and make informed decisions.

People access information in different ways. While there is information available on the Internet from a wide range of academic, environmental and other sources, many people do not have Internet access and even if they do, it is difficult to know whether the cited research and information is valid or reliable.

People told me there is a need for information from independent experts who do not have a stake in nuclear power or uranium. To maximize information exchange, dialogue, and debate, a variety of sources need to be accessed, a number of forums created and information distributed broadly in publicly consumable language so that people, and governments, can be properly informed. Radio, television, newspapers, videos, pamphlets, brochures, libraries and Internet sites should all be used. There is also a need to regularly collect information from the public about their information needs.

While more than 2,600 people attended public meetings and almost 1,300 other submissions were sent to me including letters and email; it is important that we do not lose sight of the fact that many people did not participate in this consultation process and they need information and future opportunities to engage in this essential discussion.

As well, the process I used was a non-deliberative approach whereby the views of the public and organizations were solicited, but competing views were not debated. Deliberative approaches need to be found to facilitate multi-way communication, allow for the education of participants and provide opportunities to listen, respond and debate.

One key mechanism for information and debate will be the upcoming inquiry, approved by the legislative assembly on April 29, 2009 as follows:

That the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, in accordance with Rule 147(3) of The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, shall conduct an inquiry to determine how the province can best meet the growing demand for electricity in a manner that is safe, reliable, environmentally-sustainable and affordable for Saskatchewan residents; and, That the said committee shall conduct public hearings to receive representations from interested individuals and groups; and further, That the said committee may, notwithstanding Rule 147(4), report its recommendations to the Assembly at a date determined by the committee[5]

In the short term, these hearings will facilitate continued public discussion, debate and information exchange. However, other forums are also necessary to ensure new research is disseminated, ongoing dialogue occurs, and the public is informed.

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[5]Hansard, Government of Saskatchewan, 26th Legislature, April 29, 2009.

Recommendation 8

I recommend forums be organized on an ongoing basis to facilitate dialogue, debate, publication and information dissemination through the media. This should include, but not be limited to, the hosting of conferences, by the Government of Saskatchewan and the two universities to:

- discuss nuclear generation, environmental health and community health; and
- explore other options for future power generation including:
  - expanded use of renewables, with particular emphasis on wind and solar, but also hydro, geo-thermal, bio-mass and any other options;
  - expansion of natural gas and polygeneration, clean coal and carbon capture and sequestration;
  - increased energy conservation efforts; and
  - continued use of coal.

Recommendation 9

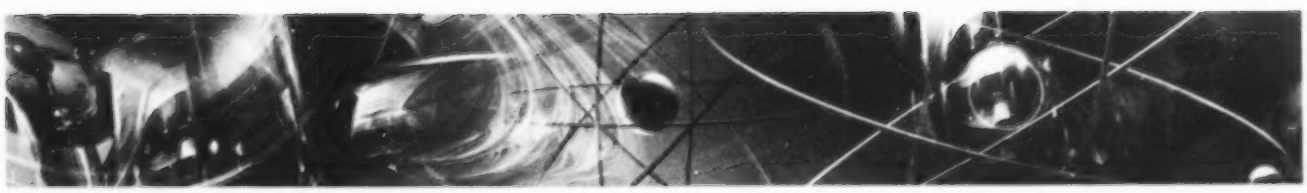
In order to make the best information available, I recommend the Government of Saskatchewan use mechanisms such as surveys, focus groups and polling on an ongoing basis to assess the knowledge, understanding, information needs and views of the public.

Conclusion

Throughout the consultation process, I was impressed with the commitment of people to the future of the province. I am very appreciative of those individuals and organizations that took time from their busy schedules to share their views with me.

People told me this is a very important issue for the future of the province and time needs to be taken to ensure quality information is available, people are properly consulted, and informed decisions are made.

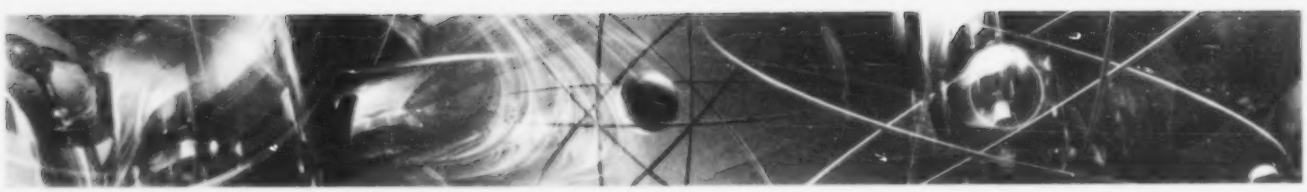
I look forward to future opportunities for public discussion, debate, and information exchange on the future of power in Saskatchewan.



Biography

Mr. Perrins is currently the Executive in Residence and Senior Policy Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina. Prior to this, Mr. Perrins served in the Public Service of Saskatchewan for 36 years. He began his career as a frontline social worker and went on to hold a number of increasingly senior positions in Social Services, Health, Education and Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training. In February 2001, Mr. Perrins was appointed as Deputy Minister to the Premier and the Head of the Public Service and served in that role until November 2007.

He has lectured extensively on public administration, social policy, and the machinery of government. Mr. Perrins has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada's Lieutenant Governor General's Medal for Distinguished Public Service. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and the School of Social Work, University of Regina. Mr. Perrins has also been active in his community, serving on a number of community boards as well as coaching baseball and basketball.



Appendices

Appendix A – Mandate Letter

Minister of Enterprise
and Innovation

SASKATCHEWAN

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

April 8, 2009

Mr. Dan Perrins
Executive in Residence and Senior Policy Fellow
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
University of Regina
110 – 2 Research Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0A2

Dear Mr. Perrins:

Thank you for agreeing to accept the position of Chair for the Government of Saskatchewan's public consultations on the findings and recommendations of the Uranium Development Report ("Public Consultation Process").

In your role as Chair, you will be responsible for leading all aspects of the Public Consultation Process including but not limited to:

1. Selection, management and supervision of up to five facilitators and up to three support personnel to assist in the execution of the duties of the Chair;
2. Chairing the half-day Stakeholder consultation meeting;
3. Chairing all community consultation meetings across the province;
4. Chairing a minimum of two full day meetings at which individual stakeholder organizations have the opportunity to present submissions;
5. Chairing a minimum of one full day meeting at which First Nations and Métis representatives have the opportunity to present submissions;
6. Receiving and reviewing all written submissions from stakeholders and individuals sent to the Chair via email, regular mail or the Public Consultation Process website;
7. Supervising the management of all content posted to the Public Consultation Process website;
8. Acting as spokesperson for the Public Consultation Process; and,
9. Writing and submitting to the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation a report no later than August 31, 2009, summarizing public input and feedback from stakeholders and citizens gathered through the Public Consultation Process.

Your role as Chair of the Public Consultation Process will not include the following:

1. The Chair is not a spokesperson for the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) or the Government of Saskatchewan;
2. The Chair is not an advocate for or against the key findings or recommendations contained in the UDP Report; and
3. The Chair will not make recommendations for further action with regard to uranium industry development except to recommend further public consultations and/or the provision of further information to the public.

Upon your request, the Government of Saskatchewan will provide further administrative and staff support to assist you in your capacity as Chair of the Public Consultation Process.

As Chair of the Public Consultation Process, you will be entitled to a per diem of $600 per day while engaged in the work of the Public Consultation Process and will be reimbursed for travel and other expenses according to the approved Crown Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan policy outlined in the Remuneration Schedule and Expense Guideline for Directors appointed to the Crown Investments Corporation Subsidiary Crown Boards.

Thank you again for accepting the position of Chair of the Public Consultation Process. look forward to receiving your report later this year.

Sincerely,

Lyle Stewart
Minister
Enterprise and Innovation

Appendix B – Invitees to May 26 Stakeholder Conference

AMEC
AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
Athabasca Basin Transportation Planning Committee
Bruce Power
Cameco Corporation
Canadian Federation of Independent Business
Canadian Nuclear Society - SK Branch
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - SK Chapter
Clean Green Saskatchewan
CUPE Environment Committee
Denison Mines Corporation
Environmental Studies Student Association
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
First Nations University of Canada
Gabriel Dumont Institute
Golder and Associates
Green Campus Society
IBEW Local 2067
Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative
JNR Resources Inc.
Kairos Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
Keewatin Career Development Corporation
Kitsaki Development Ltd. Partnership
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
Nature Saskatchewan
New North (Saskatchewan Association of Northern Community Services)
Office of the Treaty Commissioner
Partners for Saskatchewan River Basin
Regina Eco Living
Resource Development Inc.
SARM
Saskatchewan City Mayors
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Saskatoon Peace Coalition
Save our Saskatchewan (S.O.S.)
School Board - Public Section of the Public School Boards Association
School Board - SK Catholic School Boards Association
SIAST
SK Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission
SK Association of Health Organizations
SK Association of Regional Colleges
SK Chamber of Commerce
SK Construction Association
SK Eco-Network
SK Environment & Industry Managers Association
SK Environmental Society
SK Federation of Labour
SK Medical Association
SK Mining Association
SK Outfitters Association
SK Research Council
SK Trade and Export Partnership
SK Trappers Association
SK Union of Nurses
SK Wildlife Federation
SUMA
Titan Uranium Exploration
United Steel Workers
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan

Appendix C – Organizations Presenting in Hearings

May 27 and 28 Hearings

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Clean Green Saskatchewan

National Farmers Union

Canadian Mining Innovation Council

Inter-Church Uranium Committee

Saskatoon Peace Coalition

Mission and Outreach Committee – United Church of Canada

Making the Links Radio

Low Energy Designs Ltd.

Peaceful Immanence Collective

Save Our Saskatchewan (SOS)

Bruce Power

Orchard Exteriors and Constructions

Sierra Club of Canada – Saskatchewan Chapter

Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon – Social Action Committee

David Orchard Campaign of Canada

Saskatoon & District Chamber of Commerce

North Saskatchewan River Environmental Society

Renewable Power the Intelligent Choice - Val Drummond

Mennonite Church of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon Sisters Diocesan Association

Office of Peace and Justice - Saskatoon Diocese

Kairos

Fellowship for Reconciliation & Peace

Citizen's Voice

Cameco

Sandra Finley's Email Network

Saskatchewan Organic Directorate

Borden Residents Interested in Developing a Green Environment (BRIDGE)

Council of Canadians - Prince Albert Chapter

Green Party of Saskatchewan

June 22 and 23 Hearings

Clean Green Saskatchewan

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Council of Canadians

AREVA

Saskatchewan Division of Mission - United Church of Canada

Regina Chamber of Commerce

PC Party of Saskatchewan

Clean Green Regina

Canadian Nuclear Society

Unitarian Fellowship of Regina

Fort Qu'Appelle Kairos

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

Regina-Qu'Appelle Green Party District Association

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

University of Saskatchewan Academics Against Nuclear Proliferation

Green Party of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Union of Nurses

Kairos Regina

Saskatchewan Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs/Business Fusion

Warman and District Concerned Citizens Group

Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE)

Saskatchewan Medical Association

Al Taylor

Arch Diocese of Regina

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Nature Saskatchewan

North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA)

Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy

Saskatchewan Mining Association Inc.

Singers of the Sacred Web

Appendix D – June 29 and Aug 24 Correspondence from Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Indian Governments of Saskatchewan

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

June 29, 2009

FSIN OFFICES

Mr. Perrins
The Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan
P.O Box 7
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 2Z5

Head Office
Asimakanseekan Askiy Reserve
Suite 100 - 103A Packham Ave
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4
Business (306) 665-1215
Fax (306) 244-4413

Regina Sub-Office
400A Hoffer Drive
Regina, SK S4N 7A1
Business (306) 721-2822
Fax (306) 721-2707

Dear Mr. Perrins:

Re: Uranium Development Partnership Report and the Duty to Consult and Accommodate First Nations

Thank you for your commitment to meaningful consultation and accommodation with the First Nations in Saskatchewan on the Uranium Development Partnership Report and the Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan. This dedication shows by keeping public consultations separate from First Nations consultations and respecting our timelines and processes as we work to develop and implement our law on consultation.

The Economic and Community Development Commission Chiefs of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations met on May 19, 2009, and passed a Motion on the process to co-ordinate all consultation on nuclear and uranium issues that relate to First Nations in Saskatchewan. Their direction as it relates to the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) and the duty to consult was as follows:

Protecting and enhancing Treaty Rights for First Nations of Saskatchewan

> **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that discussions with the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), on the development of First Nations Consultation Processes and/or Protocols be held in abeyance until such time as the Chiefs-in-Assembly have approved in principle the work developed by the Duty to Consult and Accommodate Tribal Chiefs Steering Committee and Technical Working Group ("DTC/A Committee") on First Nation Consultation and Accommodation; and
>
> **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any funding options explored and strategies developed to engage and inform First Nations in Saskatchewan on the risks and benefits of Nuclear and Uranium, respect the work of the DTC/A Committee.

As you are aware, on February 18, 2009 the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 1627 rejecting the Provincial Draft First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework. In addition, direction was given to the FSIN to develop a unified strategy on consultation, accommodation, and resource revenue sharing. This work will provide the foundation for developing any and all Consultation Protocols, including any protocols on uranium development and nuclear waste.

Therefore, the direction from the Chiefs of Saskatchewan is for First Nations to approach all consultation and accommodation in accordance with the unified strategy being developed at this time, as per Resolution 1627. We look forward to sharing this strategy with you once it is developed and has been approved by our Chiefs presiding in our Legislative Assembly.

In closing, I want to thank you for respecting the important process that we are currently undertaking. I look forward to working with you in the very near future.

Respectfully,

FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

Delbert P. Wapass
Second Vice Chief
Lands and Resources

Att.
Resolution #1627, First Nations Strategy on Consultation, Accommodation, and Resource Revenue Sharing, dated February 18, 2009;
Economic & Community Development Commission Motion on Nuclear and Uranium Issues, dated May 19, 2009.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MOTION RECORD

PURPOSE:	**Nuclear and Uranium Issues**
MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:	**May 19, 2009** **Saskatoon**

WHEREAS the Economic & Community Development Commission is mandated to pursue the promotion of Inherent and Treaty rights, which encompass ensuring the protection of First Nations lands and resources; and

WHEREAS the Economic & Community Development Commission has determined that there are resource development initiatives, within the Nuclear and Uranium Industries, which have divided First Nations among opponents and proponents of such activities; and

WHEREAS the Economic & Community Development Commission recognizes that Nuclear and Uranium issues is a shared responsibility with the Lands and Resources Commission, which should also be provided with opportunities to learn more about these activities; and

WHEREAS the Economic & Community Development Commission recognizes that it is important for both Commissions to be well-informed of the positive and negative aspects of the Nuclear and Uranium Industries; and

WHEREAS it is necessary for all Nuclear and Uranium issues that affect First Nations in Saskatchewan to respect the Duty to Consult and Accommodate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Economic & Community Development Commission direct the Economic & Community Development Secretariat to jointly share the file of Nuclear and Uranium Issues with the Lands and Resources Secretariat; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that discussions with the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), on the development of First Nations Consultation Processes and/or Protocols be held in abeyance until such time as the Chiefs-in-Assembly have approved in principle the work developed by the Duty to Consult and Accommodate Tribal Chiefs Steering Committee and Technical Working Group ("DTC/A Committee") on First Nation Consultation and Accommodation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any funding options explored and strategies developed to engage and inform First Nations in Saskatchewan on the risks and benefits of Nuclear and Uranium, respect the work of the DTC/A Committee.					
MOVED BY:	Chief Sheldon Wuttunee				
SECONDED BY:	Chief Barry Kennedy				
In Favour:	8	**Opposed:**	0	**Abstained:**	0
CARRIED	X	**DEFEATED**		**TABLED**	

Indian Governments of Saskatchewan

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

February 18, 2009 **REFERENCE NUMBER: 1627**

FIRST NATIONS STRATEGY ON CONSULTATION, ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING

WHEREAS First Nations people have Inherent and Treaty Rights, that include lands and resources within the province of Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS Section 52 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* provides that the Constitution of Canada is the supreme law of Canada, and any law that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution is, to the extent of the inconsistency, of no force or effect; and

WHEREAS Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, which includes First Nations people; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada decisions of *Haida Nation v. British Columbia, Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada* and other legal decisions established legal principles concerning enforceable Crown obligations regarding the duty to consult and accommodate; and

WHEREAS that the Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted Resolution #1535 entitled "Moratorium on Permits and Licenses with Respect to Lands and Resources within Saskatchewan", that the Government of Saskatchewan must cease and desist issuing any further permits, licenses, transfers or dispositions of lands or resources across all the territories within Treaty 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10; and

**FIRST NATIONS STRATEGY ON CONSULTATION,
ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING
REFERENCE NUMBER: 1627
PAGE TWO**

WHEREAS the May 12-13, 2008 Duty to Consult Roundtable, hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, was recognized as an information session, rather than as a consultation process; and

WHEREAS the Government of Saskatchewan released the "Draft Government of Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework" on December 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS the Government of Saskatchewan has established a deadline date of February 28, 2009 which the Chiefs of Saskatchewan do not recognize or accept; and

WHEREAS the Chiefs-in-Assembly have reviewed the document "Response of the Participating Treaty First Nations to the Draft Government of Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework of December, 2008" (Response); and

WHEREAS the Response illustrates that the Consultation Policy shall seriously and negatively affect the Inherent and Treaty rights of the First Nations of Saskatchewan and that it neither fully nor properly reflects the legal principles concerning Crown obligations regarding the duty to consult and accommodate; and

WHEREAS the Chiefs-in-Assembly understand the importance of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Convention of 1982 whereby we agreed to unify and work collectively to implement Treaty and our Treaty rights; and

WHEREAS the duty to consult and accommodate, and resource revenue sharing are issues that affect our collective Inherent and Treaty rights.

**FIRST NATIONS STRATEGY ON CONSULTATION,
ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING
REFERENCE NUMBER: 1627
PAGE THREE**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly re-assert their position under Legislative Assembly Resolution #1535 and that work is further required to define the scope of the obligations and the implications of the province's refusal to cease and desist in the issuance of licenses and permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly reject the Draft Government of Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Executive Member responsible for the lands and resources portfolio, and supported by the Executive, to support and/or work with the Tribal, Agency and Grand Councils, Independent First Nations and Treaty organizations to develop a unified declaration and agenda that will include our political, legal and technical strategy, along with legislative, policy, communications, media and business-case documents on consultation and accommodation, and on resource revenue sharing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct that this work be based on the direction provided by our communities; the Treaty Principles adopted by the Chiefs-in-Assembly; and our Inherent and Treaty rights as First Nation people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct that this work be undertaken immediately and be completed by March 31, 2010; and

**FIRST NATIONS STRATEGY ON CONSULTATION,
ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING
REFERENCE NUMBER: 1627
PAGE FOUR**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly support the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to submit an application to the First Nation Treaty Rights Protection Fund to accomplish this work.

MOVED BY: Chief Cameron Watson, Chacachas

SECONDED BY: Chief Dale Awasis, Thunderchild

CARRIED

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED by the undersigned that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution unanimously passed by the Chiefs of the Legislative Assembly at a meeting duly called and regularly held on the 18th day of February 2009, and the said resolution is now in full force and effect.

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Duty to Consult First Nations

Disclaimer: The submission of the FSIN to the Public Consultation process in no way fulfills, in whole or in part, the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate First Nations in Saskatchewan. The duty to consult and accommodate is owed directly to First Nations and not to the FSIN, who has no delegated authority to consult on behalf of First Nations at this time. The role of the FSIN at this time is to provide technical support to its member First Nations, and it is not mandated to approve or disapprove policies, legislation or other initiatives. Therefore, any and all involvement of First Nations and/or First Nation representative organizations, including the FSIN, shall be considered to be public comment only for all purposes.

First Nations in Saskatchewan have Inherent and Treaty rights to lands and resources within the province of Saskatchewan. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, which includes First Nations people. Recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada have established that the Crown is always under a common law and constitutional duty to consult with First Nations and may have to accommodate the rights and concerns of First Nations, prior to making any decisions when contemplated conduct may adversely impact the section 35 rights of First Nations.

The Government of Saskatchewan unilaterally drafted and released the *"Draft Government of Saskatchewan First Nation and Metis Consultation Policy Framework"* on December 22, 2008. However, First Nations were not appropriately consulted on the Consultation Policy, which failed to address process related and substantive concerns regarding taking into account the long-term sustainability of section 35 rights. As a Result, First Nations of Saskatchewan rejected the Consultation Policy by Resolution 1627, *"First Nations Strategy on Consultation, Accommodation and Resource Revenue Sharing"*, at a special Legislative Assembly convened on February 18, 2009. The Consultation Policy was rejected for seriously and negatively affecting the Inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations of Saskatchewan and failing to meet the legal requirements set out by the Canadian courts for meaningful consultation and accommodation with First Nations.

By Resolution 1627, First Nations in Saskatchewan identified the need to unify and work collectively to implement the duty to consult and accommodate and resource revenue sharing because these issues affect the collective Inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations. In order to ensure that consultation procedures respect established legal rights, the First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) to support and/or work with the Tribal, Agency, Grand Councils, Independent First Nations and Treaty organizations to develop a unified declaration and agenda on consultation and accommodation, and resource revenue sharing by March 31, 2010.

The consultation process being developed by and for First Nations in Saskatchewan, pursuant to this direction, will create a unified procedure which will further the complimentary goals of developing long term sustainability, achieving peace and reconciliation, and creating certainty and predictability over lands and resources in Saskatchewan. First Nations have directed that the *First Nations Strategy on Consultation, Accommodation, and Resource Revenue Sharing* be based on First Nation Inherent and Treaty rights, direction by First Nation communities, and the following Treaty Implementation Principles:

1. We, the First Nations, come from Mother Earth, and this determines our relationship with nature, our role as stewards of this land, and all forms of life and our sovereignty;
2. We, the First Nations, occupied North America as sovereign Nations long before other people came to our shores;
3. We, the First Nations, have always made our own laws, institutions and jurisdiction, which reflects our cultures, values and languages;

4. Our sovereignty enables us to enter into Treaty and other political accords with other Nations;
5. *The Royal Proclamation of 1763* affirmed our sovereignty, institutionalized the Treaty-making process, and made our consent a condition before our lands and resources could be alienated;
6. First Nations and the Crown affirmed each other's sovereignty in the Treaty process;
7. Our sovereignty will continue forever and will continue to define our nationhood forever;
8. Our Treaty has international stature;
9. The spirit and intent of the Treaty relationship is more valid than the written text and will last "as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass grows;"
10. Canada has an on-going obligation to fulfill the Treaty according to the Spirit and Intent.

In addition, it will also ensure that the following legal principles which have been established by the courts are respected and upheld:

1. Consultation is an ongoing process and is <u>always</u> required; *(Haida)*
2. Consultation is a "two-way" street with obligations on each side *(Ryan, Halfway River)*;
3. Consultation and accommodation are constitutional obligations; *(Kapp)*
4. First Nations' input must be seriously considered, substantially addressed and, as the context requires, may require accommodation *(Mikisew, Halfway River)*;
5. Stakeholder processes will not be sufficient to discharge the Crown's duty to consult *(Mikisew)* nor will public processes open to First Nations, such as participation in Public Hearings, be sufficient to discharge the Crown's duty to consult *(Dene Tha')*;
6. The Crown has a <u>positive obligation</u> to provide full information on an ongoing basis, so that First Nations can understand potential impacts of decisions on their rights *(Jack, Sampson, Halfway)* and such information must be responsive to what the Crown understands to be the concerns of the First Nations *(Mikisew)*;
7. The Crown must properly discharge both its procedural and substantive duties in any consultation process *(Mikisew)* and a failure to properly satisfy process-related concerns of First Nations, irrespective of the ultimate impact on substantive rights, may be a basis upon which a decision can be struck down *(Mikisew)*;
8. The Crown must have sufficient, credible information in decision making and must take into account the long-term sustainability of section 35 rights *(Roger William)*;
9. The purpose of consultation is reconciliation and not simply the minimization of adverse impacts *(Dene Tha')*;
10. Consultation must take place early, before important decisions are made – at the "strategic planning" stage *(Haida, Dene Tha', Squamish Nation)*;
11. Consultation cannot be postponed to the last and final point in a series of decisions *(Squamish Nation)*;
12. Consultation is required in respect of the design of the consultation process itself; *(Huu-ay-aht)*;
13. First Nations must be consulted about the design of environmental and regulatory review processes; *(Dene Tha')*
14. Consultation cannot just be in respect of "site specific impacts" of development – but must also focus on the cumulative impacts, derivative impacts, and possible injurious affection resulting from development; *(Dene Tha', Taku River, Mikisew, Roger William)*
15. The Crown must approach consultation with an open mind and must be prepared to alter decisions depending on the input received; *(Haida)* and
16. Consultation cannot be determined simply by whether or not a particular process was followed, but on whether the results are "reasonable" in light of the information presented, degree of impacts, and related matters. *(Wil'itsxw)*

Consultation and Uranium Development

Given the potential for uranium development to adversely affect First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights, the duty to consult and accommodate requires that the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations be obtained. In order for the Crown to meaningfully consult, First Nations must be involved at the strategic planning stage, and throughout the life-cycle of all discussions and decision-making regarding uranium development and nuclear waste. Education, capacity building, and funding will be essential in order to ensure that First Nations will have the opportunity to articulate and have their concerns addressed. Formal participation in decision-making will be required, and if there is consent provided for any development to occur, First Nations must share in the benefits and wealth of the province and Canada.

The development of uranium will also require environmental assessments to take place, and First Nations section 35 rights and concerns must be addressed prior to and throughout all environmental reviews. The purpose of consultation and accommodation, in this regard, will be to ensure there is an agreed upon process in place to identify how the environmental impact of uranium development may impact First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights, and ensure there is appropriate accommodation. Treaty Principle 1 will provide a foundation to ensure that the environment is protected and that First Nations can continue to exercise Inherent and Treaty rights in a way that respects Mother Earth and ensures long-term sustainability for present and future generations.

First Nations in Saskatchewan recognize that public and stakeholder consultation processes are insufficient to satisfy the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations with regard to both uranium development and nuclear waste. Therefore, First Nations in Saskatchewan appreciate the commitment of the Chair of the Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan public consultation process, to recommending a separate consultation process for First Nations, based upon the unified strategy and consultation process being developed pursuant to Resolution 1627, and established legal principles. Further, any consultation process regarding uranium development cannot be concluded without first reaching agreement on nuclear waste.

Finally, First Nations recognize the need to consider the full range of energy alternatives available in Saskatchewan. Consultations on the "Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan" cannot be meaningful or uphold Crown honour without consulting First Nations on the "Future of Energy in Saskatchewan" in order to determine all options and priorities.

Appendix E – Letter from Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

Métis Nation
Saskatchewan

July 3, 2009

Dan Perrins, Chair
Public Consultation Process
Uranium Development Partnership
P.O. Box 7
Regina, SK S4P 2Z3

Dear Mr. Perrins:

Re: Nuclear Power in Saskatchewan

I am writing out of concern for the above-described initiative (the "Project"). It has come to our attention that the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan have commenced discussion regarding the potential for a **Nuclear Reactor in Saskatchewan**.

This traditional Métis land is of great concern to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and it is our belief, as a Nation, that if a site were to be selected in Saskatchewan that this Project would impact on the rights-bearing Métis community.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan believes that any contemplation of a project of this scale triggers the Crown's legal Duty to Consult and Accommodate between the Crown and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. Therefore, the MN-S suggests the arrangement of a meeting with the **Uranium Development Partnership** to discuss the Project.

I must add that any notification or engagement with the public and local municipalities does not constitute as Duty to Consult with regards to the Métis Nation. Consultation must be with the rights-bearing Métis community, through the contemporary Métis government structures that are

219 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon SK S7L 6M8 Tel. (306) 343-8285 or 1-888-343-6677

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan represents Métis Citizens living in Saskatchewan. As such, the MN-S strives for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantee of the rights of our People, including the right to a land and resource base, self-government and self-government institutions.

elected and supported by the members of the rights-bearing Métis community. This is to ensure that the due diligence within the law is fulfilled, and to guarantee consistent and verifiable protocols.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan must be involved in the consultation process regarding the Project development to allow us the opportunity to properly assess the potential impact on the local Métis rights holders.

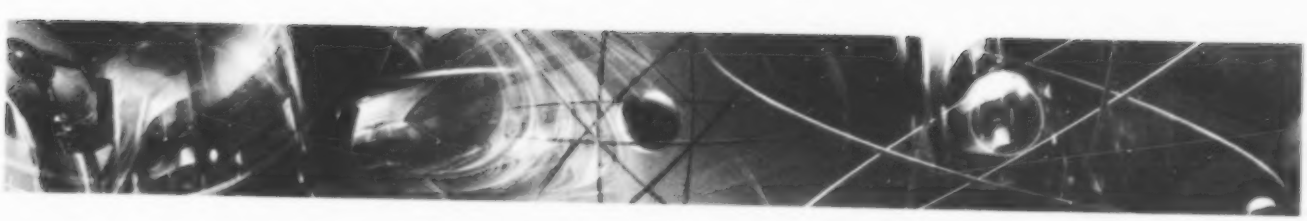
I wish to thank you for your attention to this correspondence and I ask that your office contact myself at (306) 343-8285 within two weeks of your receipt of this letter so that we may arrange for a meeting to this discuss this further.

Sincerely,

N Swain

Nicole Swain
Duty to Consult, Coordinator
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

cc: Robert Doucette, President, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
Honourable Nancy Heppner, Minister of Environment
Honourable Bill Hutchinson, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations



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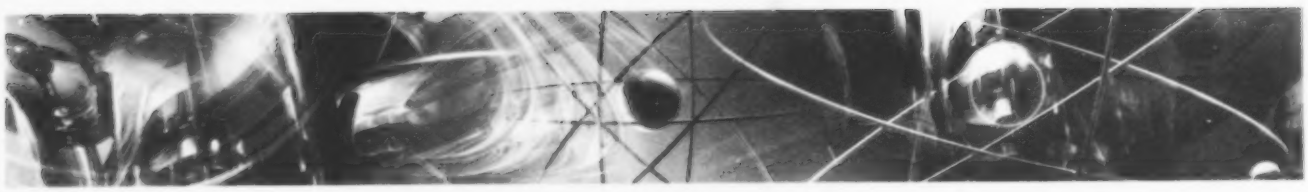
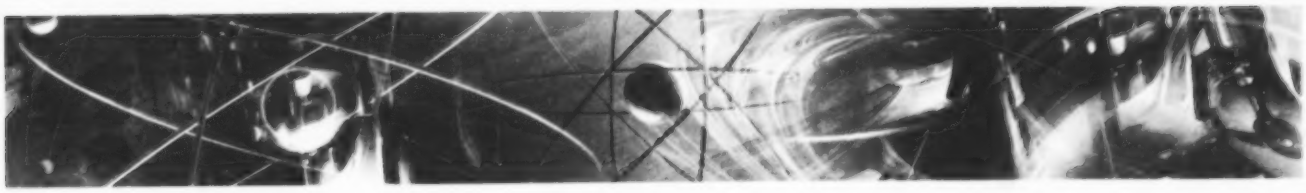
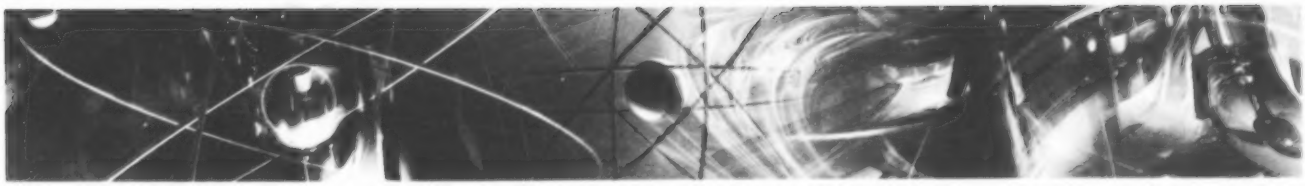
2. Hansard, May 14, 2009.

3. Hansard, April 29, 2009.